DESCRIPTION OF FOLLOWING FILE MATERIAL

NIKOLA TESLA

100-2237	156	pages
REFERENCES	96	pages
	252	TOTAL PAGES

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MAIN INVESTIGATIVE FILE

156 pages

[redacted]

[redacted] 9/24/40

Department of Justice,

Attn. Mr. G. Edgar Hoover,

Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 [illegible]

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The appended article was printed in the New York Times issue of Su
September 22, 1940 and if based on proven facts, should be of vital importance to
War Department as well as to that of other nations now controlled by insane dictato

If, as the auther states, the teleforce has been perfected by Nikola Tesla,
would be a measure of foresightedness to insure his constant guarding against his b
molested, possibly kidnapped and tortured, by alien enemies for the purpose of seizi
the secret of such an invaluable instrument of war and/or defense

The foregoing is offered just in case the article and its inferences have no
been called to your attention.

Very truly yours

[redacted]

1 ENCL

RECORDED & INDEXED

Mark 10/1/40
100-2237-1
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
2 SEP 26 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

3

NY Times 9/22/40

"Death Ray" for Planes

Nikola Tesla, one of the truly great inventors who celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday on July 10, tells the writer that he stands ready to advulge to the United States Government the secret of his "teleforce," with which, he said, airplans motors would be melted at a distance of 250 miles, so that an invisible Chinese Wall of Defense would be built around the country against any attempted attack by an enemy air force, no matter how large.

This "teleforce," he said, is based on an entirely new principle of physics that "no one has ever dreamed about," different from the principle embodied in his inventions relating to the transmission of electrical power from a distance, for which he has received a number of basic patents. This new type of force, Mr. Tesla said, would operate through a beam one one-hundred-millionth of a square centimeter in diameter, and could be generated from a special plant that would cost no more than $2,000,000 and would take only about three months to construct.

A dozen such plants, located at strategic points along the coast, according to Mr. Tesla, would be enough to defend the country against all possible aerial attack. The beam would melt any engine, whether Diesel or gasoline-driven, and would also ignite the explosives aboard any bomber. No possible defense against it could be devised, he asserts, as the beam would be all-penetrating.

High Vacuum Eliminated

The beam, he states, involves four new inventions, two of which already have been tested. One of these is a method and apparatus [illegible] eliminating the [illegible] high vacuum; a second is a method and process for producing "very great electrical force"; the third is a method for amplifying this force, and the fourth is a new method for producing "a tremendous electrical repelling force." This would be the projector, or gun, of the system. The voltage for propelling the beam to its objective, according to the inventor, will attain a potential of 50,000,000 volts.

With this enormous voltage, he said, microscopic electrical particles of matter will be catapulted on their mission of defensive destruction. He has been working on this invention, he added, for many years and has recently made a number of improvements in it.

Mr. Tesla makes one important stipulation. Should the government decide to take up his offer he would go to work at once, but they would have to trust him. He would suffer "no interference from experts."

In ordinary times such a condition would very likely interpose an insuperable obstacle. But times being what they are, and with the nation getting ready to spend billions for national defense, at the same time taking in consideration the reputation of Mr. Tesla as an inventor who always was many years ahead of his time, the question arises whether it may not be advisable to take Mr. Tesla at his word and commission him to go ahead with the construction of his teleforce plant.

Such a Device "Invaluable"

After all, $2,000,000 would be relatively a very small sum compared with what is at stake. If Mr. Tesla really fulfills his promise the result achieved would be truly staggering. Not only would it save billions now planned for air defense, by making the country absolutely impregnable against any air attack, but it would also save many more billions in property that would otherwise be surely destroyed no matter how strong the defenses are as witness current events in England.

Take, for example, the Panama Canal. No matter how strong the defenses, a suicide squadron of dive bombers, according to some experts, might succeed in getting through and cause such damage that would make the Canal unusable, in which case our Navy might find itself bottled up.

Considering the probabilities in the case even if the chances were 100,000 to 1 against Mr. Tesla the odds would still be largely in favor of taking a chance on spending $2,000,000. In the opinion of the writer, who has known Mr. Tesla for many years and can testify that he still retains full intellectual vigor, the authorities in charge of building the national defense should at once look into the matter. The sum is insignificant compared with the magnitude of the stake.

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DATE 7-19-82 BY SP1 USM/MC

100-2237-1

[redacted]

RECORDED & INDEXED

[redacted] 100-2237-1

October 1, 1940

[redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

Dear [redacted]

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 24, 1940, together with its enclosure.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to my attention are indeed appreciated, and you may be assured your letter will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jen/rtc

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ OCT 1 1940 ★
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

[redacted] ITED [redacted] USE.

RJJ-14 JBZ Ltr Advising we are not interested

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 12 1943

TELETYPE

NOT FOIA REDACTIONS

[redacted]

FBI NYC 1-12-43 11-06 PM WHS

DIRECTOR

VEST

UNSUBS --- EQUIPMENT, EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH OF NIKOLA TESLA, DE-CEASED, [redacted] ESPIONAGE - M. RETEL UNDER ABOVE HEADING TO THE BUREAU FROM THIS OFFICE DATED JAN NINE LAST. INQUIRY DEVELOPS THAT TESLA DIED JAN EIGHT, RATHER THAN THURSDAY, JAN SEVEN, AS [redacted] STATED IN REFERENCE TELETYPE. ON THE NIGHT OF JAN EIGHT, SAVA KOSANOVICH, GEORGE CLARK, AND KENNETH SWEEZEY VISITED TESLA-S HOTEL WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF SHAW WALKER CO. IN ORDER TO OPEN THE SAFE IN THE ROOM OF TESLA. KOSANOVICH LATER REPORTED TO WALTER GORSUCH, OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN, NYC, THAT HE WENT INTO THE ROOM IN ORDER TO SEARCH FOR A WILL OF TESLA. KOSANOVICH AND THE OTHERS MADE THE SEARCH OF THE SAFE IN THE PRESENCE OF THREE ASST MANAGERS OF HOTEL NEW YORKER AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE YUGOSLAVIAN CONSULATE, IDENTITIES OF LATTER NOT YET KNOWN. AFTER THE SAFE WAS OPENED, SWEEZEY, TOOK FROM THE SAFE A BOOK CONTAINING TESTIMONIALS SENT TO TESLA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SEVE TY FIFTH BIRTHDAY. THIS BOOK WAS ARRANGED FOR TESLA BY SWEEZEY. KOSANOVICH TOOK FROM THE ROOM THREE PICTURES OF TESLA, TWO BEING EN-LARGED NEWSPAPER PICTUREX. ACCORDING TO MANAGERS OF HOTEL AND KOSANO-VICH HIMSELF, NOTHING ELSE WAS REMOVED FROM THE ROOM OR SAFE. THE SAFE WAS THEN CLOSED UNDER A NEW COMBINATION, WHICH COMBINATION IS NOW IN POSSESSION OF [redacted] KOSANOVICH. ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JAN NINE, GORSUCH AND [redacted] FTIZGERALD OF ALIEN PROPERTY CONTROL WENT TO HOTEL AND SEIZED ALL THE PROPERTY OF TESLA, CONSISTING OF ABOUT TWO TRUCKLOANDS OF MATERIAL, SEALED ALL ARTICLES AND TRANSFERRED THEM TO THE MANHATTAN STORAGE AND WAREHOUSE CO. NY, WHERE THEY ARE NOW LOCATED AT THAT [redacted] TIME THERE WERE ALSO IN THIS WAREHOUSE APPROXIMATELY THIRTY BARRELS AND BUNDLES BELONGING TO TESLA WHICH HAD BEEN THERE SIN ABOUT NINETEEN THIRTY FOUR. THESE HAVE ALSO [redacted] BEEN SEALED AND ARE NOW UNDER ORDERS OF ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN. IN VIEW OF FACT TESL IS A US NATURALIZED CITIZEN, ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN FEELS THAT ITS JURISDICTION OVER PROPERTY IS DOUBTFUL BUT [redacted] FEELS THAT NO OTHER AGENCY WILL BE ABLE TO GET [redacted] TO THIS PROPERTY FOR AT LEAST TWO DAYS

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100-2237-2

16 JAN 13 1943

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PAGE TWO
AFTER THAT TIME IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE APPOINTED FOR THE PROPERTY WHO MAY TAKE THE PROPERTY INTO HIS CUSTODY. TESLA ALSO HAD SOME PROPERTY, [redacted] ALLEGED BY INFORMANT FITZGERALD IN THIS CASE, TO BE A WORKING MODEL OF AN INVENTION IN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN GOVERNOR CLINTON HOTEL IN NY. INQUIRY SHOWS THAT THIS WAS PLACED HERE BY TESLA IN NINETEEN THIRTY TWO AS SECURITY FOR FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS OWED HOTEL. THIS BILL IS STILL OWED AND HOTEL APPEARS UNWILLING TO RELEASE THIS PROPERTY TO ANYONE AT LEAST UNTIL [redacted] DEBT IS PAID, BUT THIS OFFICE WILL BE ADVISED IF ANYONE ATTEMPTS TO PAY BILL AND OBTAIN PROPERTY. CONCERNING TESLA HOTEL MANAGERS REPORT HE WAS [redacted] VERY ECCENTRIC IF NOT [redacted] MENTALLY DERANGED DURING PAST TEN YEARS AND IT IS DOUBTFUL IF HE HAS CREATED ANYTHING OF VALUE DURING THAT TIME, ALTHOPRIOR TO THAT HE PROBABLY WAS A VERY BRILLIANT INVENTOR. THEREFORE, ANY NOTES OF VALUE WERE PROBABLY THOSE MADE PRIOR TO THAT TIME. KOSANOVICH IS A NEPHEW OF TESLA WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS FORMERLY QUOTE YUGOSLAV MINISTER OF STATE UNQUOTE AND NOW QUOTE [redacted] PRESIDENT OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTING YUGOSLOVIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND GREECE, UNQUOTE. SWEEZEY IS A WRITER FOR POPULAR MECHANICS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS WHO IS [redacted] DESIROUS OF PUBLISHING A BIOGRAPHY OF TESLA AND THERFORE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN CONTROL OF HIS NOTES FOR THIS WORK. CLARK IS EMPLOYED BY RCA AND WOULD ALSO PROVIDE STORAGE ROOM FOR TESLAS EFFECTS IN ORDER TO USE THEM IN WRITING A BIOGRAPHY. TESLA AT ONE TIME REPORTED TO BE WORKING ON EXPERIMENTS FOR YUGOSLAVIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. IT IS DESIRED THAT BUREAU ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHETHER IT IS INTERESTED FURTHER IN THIS PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF TAKING CONTROL OF IT. SUGGEST THAT, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THE NOTES AND OTHER MATERIAL WOULD BE HIGHLY TECHNICAL IN CHARACTER AND FOR THAT REASON [redacted] COULD NOT BE REVIEWED [redacted] EXCEPT BY A TRAINED PERSON THE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEVEL-

OPMENT MIGHT BE INTERESTED.
FOXWORTH
END NYC S2 WHS
HOLD WA R 2 RSG

[redacted]

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IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-13-82

VEI NYC 1-9-43 11-30 PM

DIRECTOR

COAT

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS. E[redacted] EXPERIMENTS AN[redacted] TESLA, DECEASED. ESPIONAGE - M. NIKOLA TESLA, ON[redacted] STANDING SCIENTISTS IN THE ELECTRICAL FIELD, DIED [redacted] TEEN FORTY THREE AT THE HOTEL NEW YORKER, NEW YORK[redacted] LIFETIME, HE CONDUCTED MANY EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECT[redacted] TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND [redacted] WHAT [redacted] THE DEATH RAY. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FURNISHED [redacted] THREE SIX FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, THE NOTES AN[redacted] EXPERIMENTS AND FORMULAE TOGETHER WITH DESIGNS OF [redacted] VITALIZE THEM ARE AMONG TESLAS PERSONAL EFFECTS, AN[redacted] TAKEN TO PRESERVE THEM OR TO KEEP THEM FROM FALLING [redacted] [redacted] UNFRIENDLY TO THE WAR EFFORT OF THE UNI[redacted] ING TO SPANEL, A DISTANT RELATIVE OF TESLA, NAMED S[redacted] WAS INTENSELY DISLIKED BY TESLA, IS TAKING STEPS TO [redacted] THESE IMPORTANT DOCUMNTS AND PLANS. SPANEL BELIEVE[redacted] STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT KOSANOVICH WILL MAKE THIS MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO TO THE ENEMY. SPANEL ADVISED G TWO HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS MR MORKIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON, CONCERING THE AEOVE. SPANEL WAS ALSC INTELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION WITH [redacted] DR D LOZADO, ONE OF THE ADVISORS TO VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE CONCERNING THIS MATTER, AND LOZADO TOLD SPANEL [redacted] THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE EFFECTS OF TESLA AND REQUESTED SPANEL TO LOSE NO TIME IN DOING ALL HE COULD TO PRESERVE [redacted] THEM. BLOYCE FITZGERALD, AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER WHO HAD BEEN QUITE CLOSE TO TESLA DURING HIS LIFE TIME, ADVISED THE NEW YORK OFFICE THAT ON JANUARY SEVENTH, NINETEEN FORTY THREE, SAVA KOSANOVICH, GEORGE CLARK, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE MUSEUM AND LABORATORY FOR RCA, AND KENNETH SWEZEY OF ONE SIX THREE MILTON STREET, BROOLKYN, NY, WENT TO TESLAS ROOMS IN THE NEW YORKER, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A [redacted] LOCKSMITH BROKE INTO A SAFE WHICH TESLA HAD INHIS ROOMS IN WHICH HE KEPT SOME OF HIS VALUABLE PAPERS, INCLUDING IMPORTANT [redacted] ELECTRICAL FORMULAE, DESIGNS, ET CETERA. WITHIN THE PAST MONTH, TESLA TOLD FITZGERALS THAT HIS EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND PERFECTED.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Mumf
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Miss Gandy

Title

Memo Mr. Ladd 1/11/43 JBL

Memo to Director 1/11/43 JBL.

100-2237-3

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1 JAN 18 1943

ENCLOSURE

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PAGE TWO

FITZGERALD ALSO KNOWS THATTESLA HAS CONCEIVED AND [redacted] A REVOLUTIONARY TYPE OF TORPEDO WHICH IS NOT PRESENTLY IN USE [redacted] THE NATIONS. IT IS FITZGERALDS BELIEF THAT THIS DESIGN HAS NOT [redacted] AVAILABLE TO ANY NATION UP TO THE PRESENT TIME. FROM STATEME[redacted] TO FITZGEARLD BY TESLA , HE KNOWS THAT THE COMPLETE PLANS, [redacted]CATIONS AND EXPLANATION OF THE BASIC THEORIES OF THESE THIN[redacted]OME PLACE IN THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF TESLA. HE ALSO KNOWS THAT [redacted] A WORKING MODEL OF TESLAS WHICH COST MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND D[redacted]O BUILD IN A SAFETY [redacted] DEPOSIT BOX BELONGING TO TESLA[redacted]GOVERNOR CLINTON H[redacted]X HOTEL, AND [redacted]X FITZGEARLD [redacted] THIS MODEL HAS TO DO WITH THE SO CALLEDE DEATH RAY OR THE WIRE[redacted]NSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL CURRENT. TESLA HAS ALSO TOLD FITZGEARLE[redacted] CONVERSATIONS THAT HE HAS SOME [redacted]X EIGHTY [redacted] TRUNKS INDIFFERE[redacted]ES CONTAINING TRANSCRIPTS AND PLANS HAVING TO DO WITH EXPERIMENTS [redacted]ED BY HIM. BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHAT, IF [redacted]ION SHOULD BE TAKEN CONCERNING THIS MATTER BY THE NEW YORK FIEL[redacted]ION.

FOXWORTH

CORRECTION- THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TELETYPE THE NAME THAT SHOULD APPEAR IS FITZGEARLD[redacted] NOT FITZGERALD [redacted] AS IT SOMETIMES IS SPELLED

HOLD

NOT FOIA REDACTIONS

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

C-287

Federal Bureau of Investiga
United States Department of J
Washington, D. C.

JBL:ed

January 11, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E.A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ste

MEMORANDUM FOR [redacted]

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJEC[redacted]
EXPERIMENTS A[redacted]
OF NIKOLA TESL[redacted]
ESPIONAGE - [redacted]

Nikola Tesla, one of the world's outsta[redacted] in the electrical field, died at his residence in the [redacted] New York City, on January 7, 1943. In the course of [redacted] ducted many experiments with respect to the transmission [redacted] by means of radio and what is commonly called the "Death Ray" [redacted] with respect to the wireless transmission of electrical [redacted] were reported to have been completed and perfected, and Tesla had also co[redacted]ed and [redacted] a revolutionary type of torpedo which is not in use b[redacted]tio[redacted] present time. The specifications, explanations of the basi[redacted]ries, [redacted]rking models of Tesla's scientific endeavors are reported to be [redacted] effects. Tesla is reported to have some 80 trunks in different places containing transcripts and plans having to do with his experiments as well as a working model of one of his developments in the safety deposit box at the Governor Clinton Hotel.

Information concerning Tesla's experiment[redacted]on reported to the New York Office by A. N. Spanel and Bloyce Fitzgerald, the latter an electrical engineer who had been quite close to Tesla. Both of these individuals have indicated that no steps have been taken to preserve Tesla's records and models or to keep them from falling into the hands of individuals sympathetic to the Axis powers.

1 Enclo.

Tesla has a distant relative by the name of Sava Kosanovich, whom he intensely disliked. Kosanovich is reported to be taking steps to get possession of these important documents and plans, and Spanel believes there is a strong likelihood that Kosanovich will make such information available to the enemy. On January 7, 1943, Kosanovich, accompanied by George Clark, in charge of the Museum and Laboratory for RCA, and Kenneth Swezey of Brooklyn, New York, entered Tesla's rooms at the Hotel New Yorker where, with the aid of a locksmith, they broke into a safe in which Tesla kept some of his valuable papers, including important electrical formulae, designs, et cetera.

RECORDED & INDEXED 100-2237-3 JAN 18 1943

Mr. Spanel, in addition to reporting these developments to the Bureau, has also advised the headquarters of the Military Intelligence Division, a Mr. Morkin of the Department of Justice in Washington, and Dr. Lozado of the advisors to Vice President Wallace. Lozado advised Spanel that the Government was vitally interested in the effects of Tesla and requested that Spanel loose no time in doing all he could to preserve them.

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FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

55 JAN 26 1943

1-12-43

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10

The New York Office was instructed to disc[illegible]ke the matter up with the State's Attorney in New York City with the [illegible] possibly taking Kosanovich into custody on a burglary charge and obt[illegible] the various papers which Kosanovich is reported to have taken from Tesl[illegible]. It was pointed out that any activities pursued by the State's Attor[illegible]d be handled in a most secret fashion in order to avoid any publici[illegible]ect to Tesla's inventions. The New York Office was also instructe[illegible] the Surrogate Court in order that stops could be placed against t[illegible] of Tesla both in his hotel and any other points, in particular, the saf[illegible] boxes that he ma have in order that no one may enter them without a [illegible]tative being present and every precaution taken to preserve the secrecy [illegible]la's inventions. The New York Office is to keep the Bureau advised of all de[illegible]nts.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

L. M. C Smith is handlin
this with alien property
Custodian so there appears
to be no need for us to
Mess around in it.

EAV

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

7

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tam
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tam
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

[redacted]

EAT:DS

January 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

On Friday, January 8th, Mr. L. M. C. Smith called me in connection with the death of Nikola Tesla. He advised me that he was concerned about the possibility of enemy agents confiscating some of the trunks of Tesla, who had died on January 7th. He understood that the War Department was interested in this matter and that apparently the Alien Property Custodian's office was taking some action. He desired to know whether the Bureau would take some steps to refrain relatives of Tesla from taking the contents of his trunks and whether the Bureau would seize possession of the trunks. Mr. Smith indicated that he was talking to the Alien Property Custodian along the same lines. I told him that in view of the fact he was going to handle the matter with the Alien Property Custodian's office, there did not appear to be any action which the Bureau could or should take.

1 ENCL

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY [redacted]

Very truly yours,

Edw. A. Tamm

12:30 pm 1/13/43
Called Dorgan
& instructed no
further action

RECORDED 100-2237-3
F B I
1 JAN 13 1943

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

53 JAN 22 1943

12

(b)
(7)
(c) [redacted]

April 16, 1948

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-82 BY SP4 JRM/RTC

Mr. J. E. Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am a student at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, studying Electrical Engineering. I am also interested in the life and work of Nikola Tesla. I understand that at the time of his death, your department took his manuscripts and experiment data for national security. I am preparing a paper to be presented before the student branch of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers on Tesla.

RECORDED & INDEXED 14 SEP 1948
100-2237-3X

If it is possible I would appreciate material bearing on Tesla's [illegible] and methods of experiment.

FBI
APR 28 1948

13

This information would help me in a better presentation of this paper and consequently a far greater appreciation of his work in the field of science.

I know that a part of the experiments and theory have a secret classification, and I do not expect any of it.

I am interested in "Ground Current Transmission" as the basis of my thesis for graduation. If it is possible to obtain this information, I would be very grateful.

Yours very truly,

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

[redacted]

100-2237-31 April 22, 1948

RECORDED 65-47953-18

(b) (D) (C)

Your letter of April 19, 1948, has been received and I wish to express my appreciation to you for having written me as you did. The affairs of Nikola Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau. It is suggested that you may desire to communicate with the Office of Alien Property, United States Department of Justice, 101 Natoma Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: This individual requests information relative to the work of Nikola Tesla relative to electrical experiments he was conducting, which main understands were taken by this Bureau and held for security reasons. Bureau file [redacted] reflects that the effects of Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property.

VW:jcc

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carl
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 8
APR 23 1948 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED READING ROOM APR 7 00 PM

6 0 MAY 10 1948

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April 3, 1950

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY [signature]

[redacted]

(6)
(7)
(C)

Reference is made to your inquiry by telephone on March 29, 1950, concerning certain technical papers which belonged to the late Nikola Tesla.

From an examination of our files, we have been able to determine that this Bureau has never been in possession, as had been indicated to you, of a copy of Dr. Tesla's papers.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

100-22357-2X1

67C [redacted]

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EX-115

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Boson
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Harbo
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Nease
Sandy

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APR 4 1950
COMM - FBI

16

Director, FBI

SAC, New York

April 17, 1950

(b)(1)(C) [redacted]

Rebulet dated April 3 last.

On April 7, 1950 agents of this office interviewed Mr. J.V. POTTS, Vice President of the Manhattan Warehouse and Storage Company, 52nd Street & 7th Avenue, New York City, and at that time MR. POTTS advised that the rules of his firm required that all persons gaining access to goods stored by Manhattan first had to fill out an appropriate form setting forth their names, date of visit, and reason for requesting access to the goods.

In a review of the file pertaining to the storage of the effects of NIKOLA TESLA, Mr. POTTS revealed that only one such visit had been made by persons outside of the management of Manhattan Storage itself. This one occassion took place on January 26 and 27, 1943, at which time representatives of the Alien Propert, Custodian made a thorough review of the entire effects of the TESLA estate. NIKOLA TESLA

The TESLA effects are stored in rooms 5J and 5L of Manhattan Storage's warehouse at 52nd Street & 7th Avenue, New York City. MR. MICHAEL KING, who stated he had been Floor Supervisor for approximately 10 years on the floor in question, stated that he could recall only the one occassion in early 1943 when an examination was made of the TESLA effects. He stated that at that time numerous photographs were taken by the examiners. His description of the equipment used would tend to show that a microfilm reproduction was made of some of the papers of the deceased scientist. Mr. KING added that several of the group making the examination were U.S. Navy uniforms, and during the two days required to complete the examination the civilian assistants in the group were identified to him only as "FEDERAL AUTHORITIES". According to Mr. KING, no other instance of microfilming of the records of the TESLA estate has taken place since that time.

It should be noted that the Bureau was informed of the examination mentioned above by New York letter (with attachments) dated October 17, 1945, entitled UNKNOWN SUBJECT; SAVA KOSANOVICH; Experiments & Research of NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased), Espionage-M.

cc: 65-12290

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100-2237-

NOT RECORDED

148 APR 20

EHH:JJC
105-1391

17

MR. POTTS stated that no inquiry had been received by Manhattan from SAVA N. KOSANOVICH, nor had Manhattan informed him, in any way, that an examination of the TESLA effects had been made by anyone. In fact, added MR. POTTS, the only correspondence relating to the TESLA estate has been in the form of bills for storage.

MR. POTTS stated that any personal inquires regarding the estate would of necessity be directed to him, and to date no such inquiries have been made.

Interviewing agents explained to MR. POTTS that the examination made, as mentioned above, was not instigated by the Bureau, nor had the Bureau taken part in that examination.

Unless advised to the contrary, this investigation is being placed in a closed status, and no further investigative action is contemplated by this office. CLOSED.

[redacted]

(b)
(7)
(C)

[redacted]

August 18, 1952

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Records
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Jam/pr

Gentlemen:

In a manner of introduction, I wish to state that I am working toward a degree in Electrical Engineering at the Institute of Technology of the University of Minnesota.

For several years, I have been engaged in a study of extensive compass and detail concerning the researches and writings of the late, world renowned scientist, Dr. Nikola Tesla. At considerable expense, I have acquired an extensive collection of materials relating to Dr. Tesla and his works which include:

1) Personal letters written by Tesla to his close friend.

2) Numerous periodicals, some of which are to be found in only a few libraries throughout the United States.

3) A few rare books which have now become "collector's items".

4) A collection of issued patents.

Although the items listed are considerable in number, the specific information desired is lacking.

As I understand it, because of the nature of Dr. Tesla's role in scientific developments, all research papers, patent applications, etc., were secured by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the time of Dr. Tesla's death in January of 1943.

The purpose of this seizure, as described in numerous articles, was to determine whether these papers contained suggestions leading toward advancements in the field of science.

100 2237-4

RECORDED - 68

Reply 8-26-52

[redacted]

[redacted]

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19

Now it seems that sufficient time has elapsed for an investigation of this kind. If Dr. Tesla's Estate has been released by the department in charge, any records that can be made available for examination will be welcomed.

A letter from Harold I. Baynton, Assistant Attorney General, Director, Office of Alien Property, informed me that the Library of Congress listed certain works, writings and research studies prepared by the late Dr. Tesla. However, a letter addressed to the Library failed to bring results as the Library "has no files on the researches of Tesla".

A similar result was obtained from the Bureau of Naval Research and the Department of Commerce.

I am especially interested in the research work in which Tesla was engaged in his later years. There are various unpublished works, such as a 10-page typewritten statement presented in 1937 at a meeting of several well-known editors outlining his discoveries and giving a resume' of his work in the fields of gravity and cosmic ray research, etc. Also, Tesla prepared various papers, one of which was in effort to secure the Pierre Gutzman Prize from the Institute of France. My inquiry is in effort to determine whether any of these documents, as well as others, are at this time available.

I will greatly appreciate any information in regard to any records which you may have.

Very truly yours,

(b)
(7)
(C)

[redacted]

August 26, 1952

[redacted]

EX. - 28

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RECORDED - 68

100-2237-4

Dear [redacted] (b)(7)(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jonfete

With reference to your letter of August 18, 1952, our files disclose that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody at the time of his death by the Office of Alien Property, and not by this Bureau. Consequently, you may wish to communicate further with that agency, which may be addressed as follows: (65-47953)

Assistant Attorney General
Rowland F. Kirks
Director, Office of Alien Property
United States Department of Justice
101 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - 1 - Assistant Attorney General (with copy of incoming)
Rowland F. Kirks
Director, Office of Alien Property
United States Department of Justice
101 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

MAILED 10
AUG 27 1952
COMM-FBI

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

100-2237

NOTE: No reference Bureau files on correspondent in Minnesota.. 8-22-52...per [redacted]

6 SEP 10 1952

21

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: May 5, 1953

FROM : MR. L. L. LAUGHLIN

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased)
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Smith

[redacted] called on the afternoon of May 4, 1953.

[redacted] stated that he had been reading a book entitled, "The Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla" by John J. O'Neill, whom [redacted] described as a science writer for a New York newspaper (publisher - Ives Washburn). [redacted] noted in this book that Bureau Agents went to Tesla's room following his death on January 7, 1943, opened his safe, examined his papers, and took over his personal files. [redacted] said this appeared on page 277. [redacted] stated that Tesla is the father of modern power engineering, being responsible for the invention of the A. C. generator, motor transmission, and other electrical engineering feats. He inquired (1) if the papers and works of Tesla were in the possession of the Bureau, and (2) if so, were they available for review in view of their scientific importance.

I told [redacted] that the statement concerning the Bureau's taking Tesla's files did not seem very logical but that I would check on the matter.

The Bureau's files reflect that shortly after the death of Tesla in his hotel room in New York City on January 7, 1943, Sava Kosanovich, a distant relative, and other individuals entered his room and opened the safe, examining certain materials which he possessed. On January 8, 1943, Mr. L. M. C. Smith of the Department advised Mr. Tamm that he was concerned about the possibility of enemy agents confiscating some of the trunks of Tesla and apparently the Office of Alien Property Custodian was taking some action regarding these effects. Since the matter was being handled by the Office of Alien Property Custodian, the Bureau did not make any inquiries into this situation. (65-47953-6)

It is noted also that the Bureau received a letter dated April 16, 1948, from [redacted] explaining that he was studying electrical engineering at the Milwaukee School of Engineering and

100-2237-XX

[redacted]

65-47953

1 - Mr. Nichols

RECORDED-66
INDEXED-66
MAY 6 1953

[redacted]

22

was interested in the life and works of Tesla. [redacted] stated that he understood at the time of Tesla's death the Bureau took his manuscripts and experiment data for national security. The Bureau on April 22, 1948, advised [redacted] that the effects of Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property and not by the FBI.(65-47953-18)

I called [redacted] this morning and told him that it was the office of Alien Property and not the FBI which took over the effects of Tesla following his death. Accordingly, I suggested that [redacted] might wish to communicate with the office of Alien Property for further information concerning this matter.

The book "Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla" is not in the Bureau Library. A copy is being obtained from the Library of Congress. It will be examined to determine specifically the reference made to the Bureau's taking these papers. At that time a determination can be made as to what further action should be taken.

(b)
(7)
(C

ADDENDUM: LLL:mer 5-14-53

Page 277 of the "Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla," describing Tesla's death, contains the following statement: "Operatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation came and opened the safe in his room and took the papers it contained, to examine them for a reported important secret invention of possible use in the war."

Since this work was published in 1944, it is not felt that any particular purpose would be served by raising an objection with the publishers at this time. [redacted] the individual who raised the question, has been set straight and, therefore, no further action is being taken.

GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 3/10/54

FROM : SAC, New York (62-3)

SUBJECT: LELAND I. ANDERSON
NIKOLA TESLA

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

INDEXED

Mr. GEORGE H. SCHERFF, JR., 149 Edgewood Road, New Rochelle, New York, advised that he received two letters from LELAND I. ANDERSON, 127 Seymour Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota, photostatic copies of which are being furnished the Bureau and Minneapolis.

Mr. SCHERFF stated that he was an associate of NIKOLA TESLA in 1914 and that for many years his father had been Dr. TESLA's private secretary. Mr. SCHERFF said that he never heard of LELAND I. ANDERSON nor did he ever hear of any of the names mentioned in ANDERSON'S letter.

Mr. SCHERFF stated that he has quite a lit of TESLA'S writings in his possession and he didn't know whether or not they would be of value to a foreign government.

(b)(7)(C)

No further action is being taken by the N.Y. Office, WACB.

Encs. (29)
1 - Minneapolis (2 Encs.)

EXP. PROC.

H - Encs. memo: New York
3-10-54
RECORDED - 15
INDEXED - 15
EX-128
100-2237-4X1
MAR 11 1954
3-11
no action

b7C

24

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

February 3, 1954

Mr. George H. Scherff, Jr.
149 Seacord Road
Westchester, NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Scherff:

re.: The life and work of Dr. Nikola Tesla.

Recently, I have founded an organization in name and honor of Dr. Tesla in cooperation with several people who were intimately associated with Tesla during his lifetime, and with others who are interested in Dr. Tesla and his achievements from a scientific and historical standpoint. (See enclosed brochure.) I have had some difficulty locating a few of Tesla's associates, and, the name of George Scherff is among them. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that you, Mr. Scherff, are the person I seek as having been associated with Tesla.

I have personally studied the works of Tesla for a number of years, being particularly interested in elaborating upon his researches regarding high-tension radiant beams. Through some travel and other efforts, I have been fortunate to locate many original collections of Tesla's correspondence and manuscripts, and in a few cases obtained a number of interesting items.

I was in New York a short time ago on business, and while there I visited Mr. Kenneth M. Swezey. He intends to undertake some significant work on behalf of Tesla in the near future, and since he knew Tesla for so many years during his later life, it will be handled with great understanding.

I hope that you may have some interest in the work which I have initiated on behalf of Dr. Tesla. There are many matters that I wish to discuss with you, provided of course, that you are the Mr. Scherff related to the Tesla story. I would be most happy to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and will send you all publications of the organization if you wish to receive them.

Very truly yours,

Leland I. Anderson

25

TESLA INTERNATIONAL
University Station B
MINNEAPOLIS 14 MINNESOTA

To Those Who Are Interested in the Life and Work of
DR. NIKOLA TESLA

Following the death of Dr. Nikola Tesla on the 7th of J[illegible] 19[illegible] Mr. John J. O'Neill, former Science Editor of the New York H[illegible] Tribune presented the biography

PRODIGAL GENIUS
The Life of Nikola Tesla

- a memorable tribute to one of the most outstanding figures in the entire field of electrical science. Many reading this biography learned of Nikola Tesla for the first time despite his momentous achievements with which he has won worldwide acclaim in scientific circles. Even those closely associated with the fields of science and engineering discovered a remarkable story of a really great man, a brilliant genius Tesla whose sensitive personality and seclusion kept his fame in a shadow

The TESLA INTERNATIONAL organization is being established in the United States in name and honor of Dr. Nikola Tesla by those having a mutual interest in his life and work. The organization has as its objective the promulgation of the truth about Nikola Tesla, that a full recognition be made for his unselfish research work on the effects of currents of high frequency and high potential, and for his achievements in the realms of [illegible] transmission and telecommunication. It would be the duty of the organization to do all in its power that the name of Tesla win in the eyes of the world the fame & revering of a great American for his contributions to science, industry, and to this country.

A journal of the TESLA [illegible] organization will be published during the month of November [illegible]. In addition to [illegible] of research and historical interest related to [illegible] the journal will include

1) A formal roster of all [illegible] interest in the organization and [illegible] activities

2) An opportunity [illegible] through the [illegible]

3) A comprehensive bibliography [illegible] concerning Tesla, [illegible] collections of Tesla [illegible] be of particular interest to scholars in the research field

4) A presentation of [illegible] Tesla's technical research [illegible]

The Journal of the TESLA INTERNATIONAL organization will be forthcoming at intervals of [illegible] months. Subscription rate is $1.00 for 10 issues. Membership in the TESLA INTERNATIONAL organization is concurrent with subscription to the Journal.

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Ave. S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

REGISTERED

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. George H. Scherff, Jr.
147 Seacord Road
Westchester, NEW YORK

MINNEAPOLIS MINN. FEB 1964

ROCHESTER N.Y. FEB 1964

MINNEAPOLIS MINN. FEB 1964 NO. 35

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

February 12, 1953

Dear Mr. Scherff,

It was so very rewarding to receive your reply concerning Dr. Nikola Tesla... I have initiated an undertaking on behalf of Tesla because I feel that in all right and justice something should be done to perpetuate the name of Tesla and see to it that his name becomes a part of the heritage of this nation. A great task perhaps, but as time goes on I believe the name of Tesla will become more significant in scientific developments. I hope that you may have an interest in the organization which I have proposed and established, and I will be honored to have you as a member. The organization is presently set up on the basis of those having a mutual interest in Tesla, with a free exchange of information between members. The first two issues of the journal of the organization are being sent to you under separate cover, and should reach you in a day or two.

Some other members which may be of interest to you are, Muriel Arbus, Dorothy Skerritt, Kenneth Swezey and W. W. Wilhelm. The recent deaths of John O'Neill and Edwin Armstrong were very unexpected, and it is with a great sadness that I received the news and loss of these two members.

Do you know if Mr. Lowenstien had a daughter? The reason I ask is that a woman visited Mr. O'Neill before his death and told him that she inherited a great amount of Teslaiana from her father - whom I presume to be Mr. Lowenstien. This woman was afraid of disclosing the information by reason of her mistaken notion and fear that she would rudely be raided by the army. You see Mr. O'Neill related to me that a few army officials visited his home with insistent requests for information. Of course all this sort of government interest was aroused by Tesla's "Death-Ray" rumors, drummed up by enterprising journalists. Well, the result of all this is that she refused to give Mr. O'Neill her married name - only that she married a Siamese prince no less, and moved to some mid-western city. If this woman has the amount of material that Mr. O'Neill intimated, it would certainly be important to locate her.

I believe that one of the valuable efforts of the Tesla Organization would be to catalog every piece of information concerning Tesla. I have made a beginning effort along this line, and I hold that before too long all collections of Teslaiana may be located, cataloged, and reproduced for fear of eventual loss. Through Mary A. Benjamin (of Walter R. Benjamin Autographs in New York) I have obtained a number of significant items of correspondence between Tesla and Robert U. Johnson. The entire collection of correspondence with Mr. Johnson numbers in excess of 70 pieces. I share this collection with Mrs.

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

[illegible] S. A. [illegible] of Long Island. The period of this correspondence runs from 1934-1935. Mrs. McCann has another group of correspondence between Tesla and George Sylvester Viereck which is very interesting in that it is from a period later in Tesla's life. [illegible] to [illegible] copies from these correspondences [illegible]

I am interested to learn whether you have collected any mementoes, [illegible]s, writings, etc. of Tesla. For a long while I have been trying to locate a copy of the brochure which Tesla issued the first week of February, 1904. It came in a large square envelope bearing a large red wax seal with the initials "N.T." stamped thereon. A number of them were distributed throughout New York and [illegible] to the Tesla enterprise in an effort to secure financial backing for the tower and power plant erected at Wardenclyffe, Long Island. You no doubt know of the brochure of which I speak. I thought it would be interesting to reproduce this brochure and distribute it among the members of the Tesla organization as a memento. Although I have written and inquired about this brochure extensively, I have not been able to locate a copy. Did you ever have one?

I have hopes that in 1956 (The Tesla Centenary) some significant [illegible] will be manifested here in the United States in honor of Tesla. The Tesla Museum in Yugoslavia has obtained the Tesla inheritance, which amounts to 3 tons of apparatus, writings, etc. It is the intention (so stated) of the Museum to publish the entire writings of Tesla, including those in the inheritance, on the Tesla Centenary. I don't know what sort of political propaganda might be injected in this publication, but it occured to me that it may be appropriate to arrange an American publication in this country [illegible] works. Unfortunately, there is not much to [illegible] state contained in this country, although [illegible] very important papers in the state were made [illegible] photostats could be located there would be much material for a [illegible] Although I have not worked on Tesla, these photostats have escaped the [illegible] search thus far.

[illegible] that you may be interested in the efforts of the TESLA-[illegible] on behalf of Tesla and wish to associate yourself with [illegible],

Yours faithfully,

Leland I. Anderson

TESLA INTERNATIONAL

S[illegible] B[illegible]

[illegible] 14 [illegible]

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

To Members of the TESLA INTERNATIONAL organization
and those interested in the works of
Dr. Nikola Tesla

[illegible]

"The [illegible] Writings of Nikola Tesla"

[illegible]

[illegible] It is with great pleasure that
[illegible] ization announces the reprinting
[illegible] terature

[illegible] and significant work
[illegible] a great demand for this
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] will not be repeated when the
[illegible] demand for the book are
[illegible]

[illegible] the special rate be only $4.00
[illegible] United States to members and
[illegible] organization

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota
3 CENTS 3
3 CENTS 3
SPECIAL DELIVERY
VIA AIR MAI
Mr. George Scherff
149 Seacord Road
New Rochelle, New York
SPECIAL DELIVERY

SAC, New York

March 10, 1954

RECORDED 15 ~~105-0-4973~~

EX-129 [redacted]

Director, FBI

100-2237-4X1

NOT AN FOIA REDACTION

ERLAND I. ANDERSON
MISCELLANEOUS; INTERNAL SECURITY - YU

Reurlet 2-19-54 concerning the above-captioned individual. Relet forwarded to the Bureau two Photostats of two letters from Anderson which were received and made available to your office by George E. Scherff, Jr.

There is returned herewith one set of the Photostats received by the Bureau as enclosures with your letter inasmuch as it appears this set was intended for retention in your office file.

Attachment

[redacted] (b) (7) (C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ste

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Gearty
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Miss Gandy

(b) (7) (C)

[redacted]

MAILED 16
MAR 10 1954
COMM-FBI

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KENNETH M. SWEZEY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Jpc/tc

163 Milton Street
Brooklyn 22, N.Y.
June 25, 1955

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Back in 1943, the local Alien Property Custodian searched through the belongings of the late electrical inventor, Nikola Tesla, stored in the Manhattan Storage Warehouse in New York City. Tesla had been a naturalized American for more than fifty years, so I believe that the search was made on the grounds that the property was to be sent to Yugoslavia, through Tesla's nephew and heir, Mr. Sava Kosanović (Mr. Kosanović had been Minister of State under the King's government, later became Ambassador to the United States from the present government, and is now a Minister serving in Belgrade).

According to the attorney who handled the Tesla estate, Mr. Philip Wittenberg, the Alien Property Custodian assured him that nothing had been held. I have a letter from the Office of Alien Property, dated March 15, 1955, which confirms this statement.

In gathering material to help in a nation-wide commemoration of Tesla's hundredth birthday next year---which will be participated in by leading scientific and engineering societies, museums, and universities---I have just discovered, however, that Tesla's solid gold Edison Medal somehow vanished during that search.

As a friend who had known Tesla well during his last twenty years, I was with Mr. Kosanović in Tesla's room in the Hotel New Yorker on the day he died. A safe expert was called in to unlock Tesla's safe. Among its contents were several honorary degrees, a volume of greetings which I had gathered for him on his seventy-fifth birthday, a bunch of keys, and the Edison Medal. We kept out the book of greetings (I mentioned this at the time to the assistant manager of the hotel and later to a Mr. Gorsuch of the Alien Property Custodian's office), but everything else, including the medal and the keys, was replaced and the safe was locked.

RECORDED - 82 62-104-2237-5
INDEXED - 82

Except when it was inspected by the Alien Property Custodian, the safe was never reopened until it

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

Memo Belmont - Boardman 6/29/55. Jst ack. 6/30/55 - 390

6 JUL 11 1955

EX-104

JUN 27 1955

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arrived in Belgrade (where Tesla's property was to be installed in a special Tesla Museum) and was there opened by Mr. Kosanovic. According to his former secretary, both the bunch of keys and the medal were missing. The keys were later found in a tin box outside the safe; the medal was never found.

I learned of the disappearance of the medal only by accident. Mr. Kosanovic had asked his former secretary to get permission from the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (who gave Tesla the Medal) to have it duplicated. This was given, but the cost, it turned out, would be about four hundred dollars. In the meantime, the Tesla Museum, in Yugoslavia, is quietly trying to raise the money to pay for it.

The irony of this situation is more disturbing than the money involved. By giving us a system which made electric power universally available, Tesla---probably more than any other one man---helped put America on top of the world. At the time he died, his gold Edison Medal was the only material evidence left of this country's appreciation. That this last token should have disappeared ---to have to be replaced by his materially poor countrymen overseas for whom he had done nothing---seems a tragic denouement.

John O'Neill, in his biography of Tesla, states that the FBI broke into Tesla's safe on the day he died, and an article in the current (June) Coronet repeats this. I know this isn't true. I did hear, however, that the FBI somehow lent a hand to the Alien Property Custodian during the latter's search in the warehouse.

If that is so, I thought that perhaps some of your men might remember the conditions under which the search was made and therefore might have a suggestion as to what could have happened to the medal. After this long time, I have no hope that the medal can actually be restored, and I am already trying to interest Americans in making a replacement. But future biographers might be spared a lot of wild guessing and wrong blaming if some hint could be obtained as to whether the original got lost, strayed, or stolen---and who might have been responsible.

With best regards and sincere appreciation for any help you can give,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Swezey

Kenneth M. Swezey

P.S.: I am enclosing an editorial from last month's POWER magazine which outlines Tesla's contribution to the electric power industry.

K.M.S.

LOUIS N ROWLEY, EDITOR • MAY 1955 • ESTABLISHED 1882 **Power**

Strange Genius

ASK ANY GROUP of power men to name those who laid the foundation for today's electrical generation and distribution. You'll wind up with an impressive list—Edison, Brush, Thomson, Westinghouse, many others. But there is almost sure to be a significant omission.

Yet this forgotten man conceived the polyphase ac motor—still basic—and devised a suitable system of generation and distribution for applying it. To grasp the magnitude of this contribution, we must turn back to the 1880's when the electrical era was being born, and the "battle of the systems" held sway.

Arc lights and motors were being operated on constant-current series systems. Edison's Pearl Street generating station had opened in 1882, supplying incandescent lamps and, later, dc motors on a constant-potential system. Under the leadership of Westinghouse and Stanley, the advantages of ac distribution were demonstrated. But there was no successful ac motor.

In May, 1888, a young Yugo-Slav engineer, but four years in the United States, read a paper before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. In it he described a new ac system. Its heart was the induction motor with its basic and beautiful concept of the rotating magnetic field. The man was Nikola Tesla, the system he described was destined to sweep the field.

With characteristic vision, George Westinghouse realized the fundamental importance of the polyphase ac system and acquired the basic patents. Its first impact on the general public was at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. There a 2-phase generator supplied motors and lamps, and, through rotary converters and motor-generators, a variety of dc equipment.

But it remained for the Niagara Falls power project to demonstrate in the most dramatic way possible that polyphase ac was the system of the future. Since 1886 when a charter to develop its power had been granted, the eyes of the world had been on Niagara. An international commission, headed by Lord Kelvin, had reviewed 17 proposals, found none acceptable. Later, just five years after Tesla's AIEE paper, it was officially decided to use the polyphase system.

In August, 1895, Niagara power was delivered to the first industrial customer and in 1896 ac transmission to Buffalo, 22 miles away, was begun. By that time, the steam turbine had been introduced in America and the modern age of electric power had truly opened.

For Nikola Tesla, these far-reaching inventions were but a beginning. Still to come was brilliant work in high frequencies, thinking basic to much of today's radio art. Yet by the time of his death in 1943, both he and his work had begun to slip into obscurity. Why?

A man of flashing insights and enormous brilliance, Tesla was largely indifferent to the development of his ideas. This he left to others while he followed the lure of new challenges. In later years, his projects became more grandiose, his ways more mysterious, his pronouncements more Olympian. And working alone, as he did, he formed none of the institutional ties that help to perpetuate a record of accomplishment.

Next year—July 10, 1956—will be the 100th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth. It would be fitting for our engineering societies to commemorate this occasion, to acknowledge our debt to this strange and lonely genius who changed our world for the better.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-11-82 BY SP2 [illegible]

100-2237-5

(REPRINTED BY PERMISSION)

35

АМЕРИКАНСКИ
СРБОБРАН
THE AMERICAN SRBOBRAN
Second Class Mail Privileges Authorized at Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE LARGEST AND OLDEST SERBIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER IN AMERICA
Published Daily Except Sat's, Sundays and Holidays by SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION
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MOMCHILO SOKICH, Editor — JOVAN BRATICH, Ass't. Editor
MILAN M. KARLO, Editor English Section

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Рукописи се не враћају никоме. — Огласи се плаћају унапред.

RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

Largely thru a young American engineer's efforts, the world today is re-scanning the record and achievements of our inventive genius, Nikola Tesla. Of late, even the big-time magazines have devoted space to the amazing career and fascinating character of the pioneering electrical wizard.

The man behind this belated recognition for the one-time Serbian immigrant boy who made millions but died almost a pauper is Leland P. Anderson, head of the **Tesla Society**, which has headquarters at the University of Minnesota.

Thru travels, correspondence and detailed research, Mr. Anderson has dug up many friends of the late genius and induced them to join in his noble work. A good many of these are American-Serbians. They serve Mr. Anderson and he serves them, with information issued thru his TESLIAN publication. This is, at present, a mimeographed publication issued monthly which casts new light on the known life and record of the late Dr. Tesla.

The latest issue (March-June) informs of progress plans to honor Dr. Tesla even more. It also presents an account of a fascinating editorial, "Strange Genius", by the POWER magazine of the powerful McGraw-Hill publishing line. This editorial traces the introduction of Dr. Tesla's polyphase system, described by Mr. Anderson, as the **"most tremendous event in all engineering history."**

Editorialist Louis N. Bowler, according to the TESLIAN, answers the perplexing question why, in view of Tesla's important discoveries, he fell short of the comparative popularity won by Edison and Bell. Then in closing, he suggests: "It would be fitting for our engineering societies, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth (July 10, 1956), to acknowledge our debt to this strange and lonely genius who changed our world for the better.".

This appears to be just what Mr. Anderson was waiting for. For now, in the same issue of his TESLIAN, he has prepared a form to petition Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield to issue a Tesla commemorative stamp next year.

[redacted] this form in duplicate in this issue and [redacted] Send [redacted] petition.

ION CONTAINED
CLASSIFIED
BY SP4 Jones/ate

INDEXED-59
100 2237 A
NOT RECORDED
138 JUL 11 1955

ICAN SRBOBRAN
29, 1955
sburgh, Pennsylvania

36

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: June 29, 1955

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 JmJ/rtc

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING (ESPIONAGE)

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

Nikola Tesla, a native of Yugoslavia, was a famous electric inventor who died in New York City in 1943 where he had lived for many years. In attached letter to Bureau dated 6-25-55 Kenneth M. Swezey, Brooklyn, New York, advises he is gathering material to help in a nation-wide commemoration of Tesla's hundredth birth anniversary in 1956. Swezey relates he was present when Tesla's safe was opened by friends after his death and advises the contents were thereafter replaced and then impounded by the United States Alien Property Custodian. Later the safe was removed to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to be installed in a Tesla Museum. Missing from Tesla's effects is a gold Edison medal he had been awarded. Swezey is seeking to locate the medal and has been advised by the Office of Alien Property (OAP) that OAP held none of Tesla's property. Swezey states he has heard the FBI assisted OAP in handling Tesla's effects while in storage, and accordingly, he asks whether Bureau could assist him in locating the Edison medal. Re FBI's assistance to OAP Swezey mentions that in the Tesla biography ("The Prodigal Genius" - 1944) by John O'Neill it was stated FBI broke into Tesla's safe the day he died (1-8-43 to protect contents from enemy hands). Swezey notes this same comment appears in article ("The Genius Who Walked Alone") by Alfred H. Sinks in the June, 1955, "Coronet." Swezey says he knows FBI did not do this [redacted] Bureau did not enter into Tesla safe matter upon Department's advice it was being handled by OAP. Bureau previously aware of comment in O'Neill's book.

(b)(7)(C) [redacted]

In 1945 Sinks requested for his use as author data re Bureau's microfilm procedure. Was advised no such data available for publicati

Enclosure Letr 6-30-55
100-2237
cc - 1 - 65-47953
Ticklers - Mr. Bird
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Boardman

ETB:jaa
(5)

RECORDED - 99 100-2237-6

EX-104

6 JUL 7 1955

6 JUL 11 1955

37

Memorandum For Mr. Boardman

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Swezey advising Bureau did not participate in the handling of Tesla's effects and that the matter was handled by OAP. Therefore, Bureau unable to be of assistance; that no action be taken relative to Sinks' comment in "Coronet" article.

Tickler - Mr. Bird
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Boardman

June 30, 1955

RA
RA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-22-80 BY SP4 Jaw/sr

Mr. Kenneth W. Sweney
163 Hilton Street
Brooklyn 33, New York

(Original)

Dear Mr. Sweney:

With reference to your letter of June 25, 1955, our files disclose the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMM — FBI
JUN 30 1955
MAILED 25

100-2237-6X

RECORDED - 25
INDEXED - 25

65-47153-113

64 JUL 1 1955

NOTE:

A cover memorandum from Belmont to Boardman was prepared by ETB:jaa on 6-29-55 in connection with this outgoing mail.

Bufiles contain no derogatory data re correspondent; reflect only that he was close friend and admirer of Tesla.

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

64 JUL 8 1955

39

[redacted] (6X)

August 1, 1955.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In his book, "Prodigal Genius", The Life of Nikola Tesla, Mr. John J O'Neil says, on page 277, that the F.B.I. went to Tesla's hotel room, opened his steel safe and removed from it, the papers it contained.

Was there ever any publication of what these papers contained? If so, could you inform me where I might obtain a copy of such publication?

If there was no publication of the Safe's content, after more than 12 years, would it be improper to publish them?

If there was no publication of the safe's content, but there were no particular secrets found there in, could you inform me where I might learn what the safe contained?

Any information on this matter will be appreciated.

Thank you for your trouble.

Sincerely,

[redacted] (b) (7) (C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-83 BY SP4 Jamplato

111

EX-104

100-2237-6X1

[redacted] (b) (7) (C)

2 AUG 12 1955

40

100-2237-6X1

~~65-47953-34~~

August 11, 1955

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-80 BY [signature]

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter dated August 1, 1955, has been received, and in response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

AUG 11 1955 MAILED 19

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no record on correspondent. This type of reply utilized by Internal Security Division in answering similar inquiries on 6/30/55. (65-47953-33) Cover memo from Mr. Belmont to Mr. Boardman dated 6/29/55 set out background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe mentioned was done by the Office of Alien Property.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

63 SEP 28 1955

[redacted]

41

[redacted] (5

September 10., 1955.

Mr. John Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau Of Investigation,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Referring to my letter to you August first, this year - your letter to me, August 11th., reletive to the matter of the papers of Mr. Nikola Tesla.

On August 26, I wrote the office of Alien Property regarding this matter, indicating that I had received the information from you that it was their department which had taken the Tesla Property into custody - not yours..

I have a letter from Mr. Henry G. Hilken - that Department - File Number HGH:H SH:elk 017-3566, in which I am told that office "never had custody, nor has vested, any property of Nikola Tesla".

As I began this matter with you - because it was stated in Mr. O'Neill's book that it was your department who opened Tesla's safe I am wondering if you have any further suggestions along lines I might follow to obtain some information in this regard?

Thank you for your time and trouble.

Sincerely,

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

EX-PROC

SEP 12 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jonfrite

RECORDED-12 100-2237-6X2

EX-107 (b)(7)(C)

17 SEP [illegible]

[redacted]

42

RECORDED
INDEXED-12

100-2237-6X2

September 20, 1955

EX-107

(b)
(7)
(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jem/rtc

Dear [redacted]:

I have received your letter dated September 10, 1955.

As you were advised by my letter of August 11, 1955, this Bureau was not connected in any respect with the acquisition or custody of the effects of Nikola Tesla, and it is therefore not possible to furnish you any additional information.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

(b)(7)(C)

NOTE: By letter 8-11-55, we referred [redacted] to the Office of Alien Property, which Office was reported to have assumed custody of Tesla's effects subsequent to his dea (65-47953-6)

(3) [redacted]

(b)
(7)
(C)

COMM - FBI
SEP 20 1955
MAILED 30

SEP 28 1955

43

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

L INFORMATION CONTAINED
EIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/tc

RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

(Please fill out this form and mail to the address appearing below.)

THE TESLA SOCIETY
University Station, Box 135
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

(date)

(city & state)

Hon. Arthur E. Summerfield
Postmaster General, Postoffice Dept.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Nikola Tesla's contributions to science, industry, and to his adopted country have greatly inspired engineering progress. His electrical systems helped create an American conomy of world pre-eminence.

We respectfully request issuance of a 1956 commemorative stamp to be issued on the centennial of Tesla's birth (1856-1943).

(signed) _____

"AMERICAN SRBOBRAN"
June 29, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvani

Ex. - 10E
INDEXED-59

V00 2237-A
NOT RECORDED
138 JUL 1 1955

6C JUL 13 1955

44

The Genius Who Walked Alone

by ALFRED H. SINKS

Nikola Tesla was a great inventor—and also a prophet without honor

COUNTER-ESPIONAGE WHEELS started turning early on the morning of January 8, 1943. Anxious FBI agents slipped into a room in the Hotel New Yorker where, late the night before, a chambermaid had discovered the body of Nikola Tesla, dead at 86, regarded by many as the greatest scientific genius of his time.

For years, Tesla had been making scientific predictions so fantastic as to be literally out of this world. Of late he had been working—or so he said—on revolutionary new weapons powerful enough to annihilate armies at a single blow.

There was only one Tesla, and the story might—incredible as it sounded—be true. The old man's safe might hold these secrets, and the Government could not risk the chance of enemy spies getting there first.

Half hoping to find something which would bring a sudden and decisive end to World War II, the G-men broke open the dead man's strong box. If anything of importance was discovered, it has never been revealed.

Yet, their quick action was justified, for you could never be sure about Tesla, one of the strangest men who ever lived. Most people took him with a grain of salt, yet no serious scientist dared shrug away his claims as nonsense. Not after Thomas Edison tried it and Tesla proved him wrong.

The world's leading physicists and electrical engineers had to eat crow back in the 1880s when Tesla solved a problem they had thought impossible. That one accomplishment—the invention of a practical alternating-current motor and gen-

[redacted]

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller E.S.
Mr. Sovars
Mr. Thompson
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Boise
Mr. Bowers
Mr. Fenwick
Mr. Herrington
Mr. Conroy
Mr. Mintz
Mr. Eardley
Mrs. Hogan

(b)
(7)
(C)

United States Senate

June 26, 1973

E/P.

Respectfully referred to:

Congressional Liaison
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

Senator [redacted]

ATTN: U.S.S. [redacted]

(b)
(7)
(C)

Form #2

ST-105

100-2237-24

7 JUN 29 1973

ENCLOSURE

[redacted]

(b)
(7)
(C)

CORRESPONDENCE [redacted]

46

[redacted]

20 June 1973

(b)(7)(C)

Dear Senator [redacted]

Though in Alaska temporarily working on a military contract, I still consider myself an [redacted] resident, hence it is to you that I write.

During my days at [redacted] College, I became interested in a fascinating Czech physicist, Nicolai Tesla. Proffessor Tesla emmigrated to this country in the twenties, I believe, and did some of his most original work here. Tesla had a peculiar bent of mind, in his younger days he was often called a mad scientist, and did not publish extensively when he came to the US. Most of the extant primary material is in untranslated Czech. Tesla was, however, an extensive note taker. It thought it strange that upon his death, none of his notes from his American period ever appeared. Upon discussing this with a friend, I was informed that all of Mr. Tesla's notes were confiscated by the FBI. I cannot conceive how these notes on physics and electricity can in any way endanger the national safety. It seems that Mr. Hoover in his zeal, had confiscated material whose only sin was a radical approach to science. There is indication that much of Professor Tesla's later work concerned a very novel approach to time theory. Needless to say, it has been radical approaches to physics that have been our greatest scientific advances in modern times, viz. Einstein, Heisenberg, et al.

I was wondering if your office might be able to determine if these papers are still extant, and if so, see to it that the public has access to them. It would be a shame to see all of Nicolai Teslas work to have been in vain.

Please excuse my typing, in all the thousands of words I typed trying to get a liberal education, I never did master the typewriter.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

100-2237-24

ENCLOSURE

47

July 5, 1973

ST-105

REC-15

100-2237-24

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-8-80 BY SP4 jm/ste

Honorable [redacted]
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

(b)(7)(C)

Dear Senator [redacted]:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated June 26th enclosing a letter from your constituent, [redacted] who is temporarily employed in Alaska.

In response to [redacted] inquiry, central files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicate that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded after his death by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

I am returning your enclosure as you requested.

Sincerely yours,

William D. Ruckelshaus

William D. Ruckelshaus
Acting Director

Enclosure

1 - Portland - Enclosures (2)
1 - Congressional Services Office - Enclosures (2)
NOTE: Bufiles reveal prior cordial correspondence with Senator [redacted]. [redacted] is not identifiable in Bufile Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the count security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodig Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a ce safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearl indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Depar which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to re inquiries.

(b)(6)(C)

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller, E.S.
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Thompson
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Baise
Mr. Barnes
Mr. Bowers
Mr. Herington
Mr. Conmy
Mr. Mintz
Mr. Eardley
Mrs. Hogan

54 JUL 13 1973

[redacted] TELETYPE UNIT

48

[redacted]

(b) (7) (C)

12 July 1973

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jon Pete

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that upon the death of Mr. Nikola Tesla, the founder of modern A.C. power systems, and the original inventor of radio, and innumerable other devices, operatives of the F.B.I. opened his safe and removed his papers on 7 January 1943, within a few hours of his demise. Also, all records of his work have been siezed and held by our government since his death. I would like to know WHY, and also to be informed as to who was, and is responsible for keeping the lid on these records. I would also like to know where they are now.

I do hope you enjoy a good laugh over the aparent naievity of such a request as this, but it is a rather strange situation to exist in a country like this, that a man of such genius and achievement could be systematically cut out of history books, and that the facts about his works could be concealed to the degree they have been. I wish to obtain access to all these old records which have been concealed for thirty years. I would appreciate your kind consideration and attention to this matter and any assistence you may care to give.

EX-87
100-22227-25

JUL 20 1973

[redacted]

(b) (7) (C)

ack 7-19-73

CORRESP

49

[redacted]

July 19, 1973

REC-60 100-2237-25

[redacted]

(b)(7)(c)

EX-105

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/st

Dear [redacted]

Your letter was received on July 16th. In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication and of this reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

MAILED 4
JUL 19 1973
FBI

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. (Bufile 100-223 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Divisio of the Department.)

Assoc. Dir. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. ____
Comp. Syst. ____
Files & Com. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Plan. & Eval. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Legal Coun. ____
Cong. Serv. ____
Corr. & Crm. Research ____
Press Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director Sec'y ____

[redacted]

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

(6)
(7)
(c)

[redacted]

50

[redacted]

Clarence M. Kelley
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C. 20535

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-12 BY [illegible]

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Thank you for your letter of the 19th of July. I appreciate the information about the Office of Alien Property and its connection with the impounding of the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla. In my letter of the 16th I did not mean to imply the FBI had impounded his effects, as I was aware of the O.A.P.s general part in the affair. The fact remains that to the best of my knowledge, it WAS agents of the FBI who did in fact break into his safe only hours after his death, and did remove the papers therein. Now, in so far as the Bureau was connected, I wish to understand that extent. I do appreciate your refering my communication to the appropriate persons in the Justice Department, but perhaps you could see that the above mentioned connection of the Bureau could be further looked into. I am curious as to who asked the Bureau to perform such an act, whether is was a person in the O.A.P. or what, and on what grounds they were carried out, and to whom they were responsible. Also, to what person were the perlained papers delivered? Names of the agents involved would be appreciated. As to what happened to any other effects of his, that is probably a question more ably answered by the O.A.P., yet if Bureau agents participated [illegible] they may have done so on other occasions. If the persons who did open the safe were NOT FBI agents, then we are faced with the fact that persons aparently posed as Bureau operatives, an even more interesting situation. Perhaps this whets your own curiosity a[illegible]

ST 108
REC 68 100-22237-26

1973

CORRE[illegible]CE

51

rec'd 8-2-73

this affair. [redacted] interest. Are you aware that before the year 1900 he was able to transmit thousands of watts of electric power to any point on the globe WITHOUT WIRES. This and other feats would make him a prime target for vested interest groups, notably the J.P.Morgan combine with whom he had connections. I am aware of the well earned tradition of the Bureau of NOT serving any master but the common good, so again we have a curious point if indeed strings were pulled. Quite frankly, it looks as if someone went to a lot of trouble to see that his ideas were not broadly available to ensure the stability of their own electric technological apple cart financially, at the expense of unguessable benefits to to humanity as a whole. How would you like to be able to draw unlimited power out of the air to run say a lightbulb with ONE wire? He did it, and much more. My sincere thanks for your thought and attentions to these matters.

Very best wishes,

(b)
(7)
(C)

REC 68 / 00-2237-26

August 2, 1973

ST-102

[redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 jpm/rte

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter, which was received on July 30th, has been reviewed and I would like to point out that FBI Agents were not involved in removal of papers from the safe of Dr. Nikola Tesla, nor did we at any time have custody of his property.

I realize there have been some written accounts that our Agents acquired Dr. Tesla's belongings; however, these accounts are simply not true. You can be assured we were absolutely not responsible and there was no impersonation involved.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Correspondent had written in mid-July and asked about the effects of Dr. Tesla and he was advised that the Office of Alien Property had participated in removing his effects from his hotel room. A copy of his communication was referred to the Department of Justice. Bufiles indicate clearly that after Dr. Tesla's death some relatives opened the safe in his hotel room with the help of a locksmith and, thereafter, the Office of Alien Property confiscated all of his belongings. Bufile 100-2237 mentions that the FBI was advised of the existence of this property; however, inasmuch as the Office of Alien Property was handling Dr. Tesla's effects, the Bureau had absolutely no hand in the entire matter.

AUG2 - 1973

Assoc. Dir. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. ____
Comp. Syst. ____
Files & Com. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Plan. & Eval. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Legal Coun. ____
Cong. Serv. ____
Corr. & Crm. Research ____
Press Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director Sec'y ____

[redacted] (3)

(b)(7)(C)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

AUG 10 1973

[redacted]

53

[redacted]

June 9, 1975

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington D.C. 20535

Sirs:

We recently contacted the San Francisco FBI office and a review of their files revealed [redacted] information concerning the scientist Nikola Tesla or his papers which we understand to have been impounded.

If you could make a thorough investigation of all files and materials available to you, we would greatly appreciate the correspondence of any information that might be discovered.

Thank you,

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-85 BY SP4 Jmp/stc

100-2237-26X

REC-36

[redacted]

54

July 7, 1975

~~62-115530-4553~~

100-2237-26X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-80 BY [illegible]

(b)(7)(C)

Dear [redacted]

This will acknowledge your letter of June 9th.

In response to your inquiry, the papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

~~1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure~~
~~Attention: Susan M. Hauser~~

NOTE: Bufile 100-2237 indicates that Dr. Tesla was a world famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death his personal papers and effects were impounded by Office of Alien Property for national security reasons. Since Tesla's death in 1943 the Bureau has received numerous inquiries about the disposition of his technical papers. The above reply is forwarded in answer to these inquiries. Bufiles contain no information identifiable with requesters.

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. ____
Comp. Syst. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Files & Com. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Plan. & Eval. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Legal Coun. ____
Rm. ____

[redacted] (4)

(b)(7)(C)

MAILED 7
JUL 7 1975
FBI

55

GPO 954-[illegible]

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

13 November 1975

Mr. Clarence Kelley
Director
F.B.I.
Washington, D.C. 20535

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

Dear Mr. Kelley:

In reply to the letter of 10 November from your office:

I restate that I was not asking about the existence or non-existence of any investigative information on Nikola Tesla, but on his technical papers seized on his death in 1943 and reported in the papers of that time.

The reason given in the reply from your office, the second paragraph, as to why I cannot get any information on Tesla's papers makes no sense in itself or in reply to my inquiry. The third paragraph stating the conditions under which a search will be made is a clear bureaucratic circumvention of the Freedom of Information Act and an excuse on the part of the individual handling my request for doing any work beyond the drafting of a letter. Will it be the decision of your office to let the situation stand like this?

As I stated in my first letter, I am following up the Tesla data for a magazine article. I am tempted to have your reply of the 10th printed and run nationally as an example of how bureaucratic manoeuvring is used to get around the FOIA. Does the bureau need more of this type of publicity?

It is disheartening to see an agency entrusted to uphold the law using its resources to mock the law.

Sincerely,

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

a-R. 11-26-75

[redacted]

21 NOV 1

[redacted]

56

REC-57 EX 103
100-2237-27

November 26, 1975

[redacted]

(6)
(7)
(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jonforte

Dear [redacted]:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Bureau on November 14th.

In response to your inquiry, the papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOV 1975 FBI

1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure
Attention: Susan M. Hauser

NOTE: Bufile 100-2237 indicates that Dr. Tesla was a World famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death his personal papers and effects were impounded by Office of Alien Property for National Security reasons. Since Tesla's death in 1943 the Bureau has received numerous inquiries about the disposition of his technical papers. The above reply is forwarded in answer to these inquiries.

[redacted] (5)

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Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. ____
Comp. Syst. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Files & Com. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
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Inspection ____
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Plan. & Eval. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Legal Coun. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director Sec'y ____

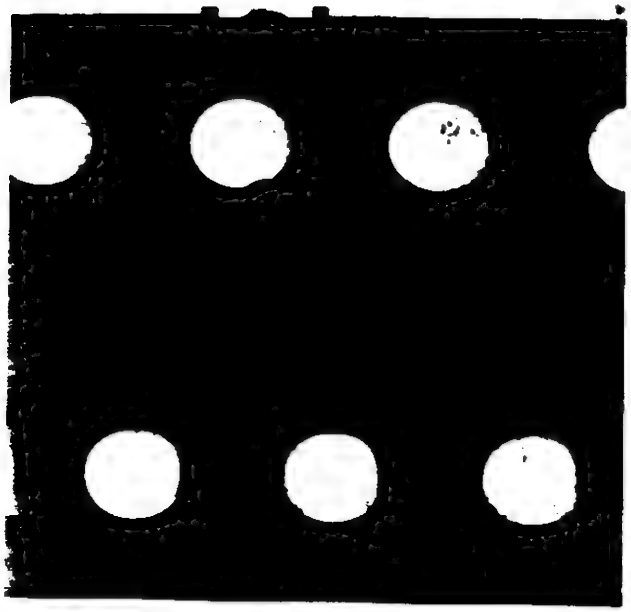
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

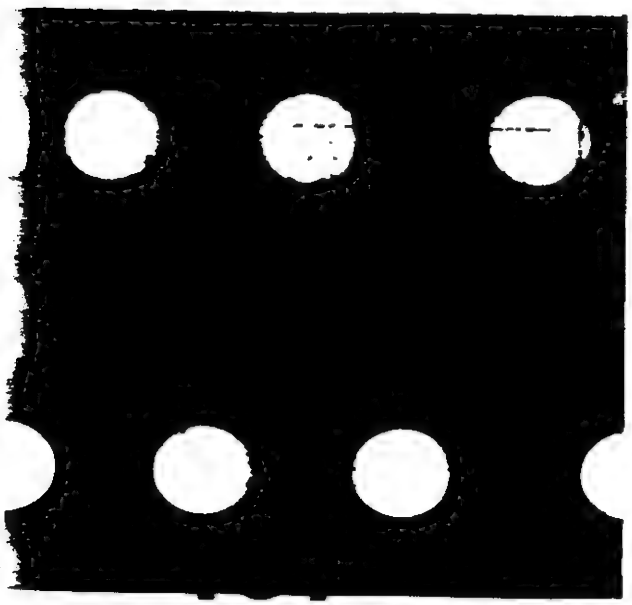
DEC 24 1975

[redacted]

GPO : 1975 O - 569-920

57





ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

1 TO *(Name, office symbol or location)* Alan McCreight Rm. 5435 - JEH	INITIALS	ACTION	CIRCULATE
	DATE		COORDINATION
2	INITIALS		FILE
	DATE		INFORMATION
3	INITIALS		NOTE AND RETURN
	DATE		PER CONVERSATION
4	INITIALS		SEE ME
	DATE		SIGNATURE

REMARKS

FOIA - [redacted] (6)(7)(C)

Do NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disapprovals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM *(Name, office symbol or location)*	DATE
Susan M. Hauser	10/21/75
	PHONE 2145

OPTIONAL FORM 41
AUGUST 1967
GSA FPMR (41CFR) 100-11.206

U.S. GPO 1975—618-818/4-1 552-103 5041-101

[redacted]

17 October 1975

Freedom of Information Act Request

Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

[redacted]

Gentlemen:

I am writing an article for a magazine on early twentieth century inventors and want to obtain information on some papers of Nikola Tesla that were seized by the FBI on his death in 1943.

Tesla invented a number of electrical devices and because of the war and because Tesla was born a Yugoslavian national, it was probably considered a measure of preventitive safety to hold in safekeeping papers that might have any bearing on national security.

I would like to find out: 1) if the FBI still has the papers; 2) if they do have the papers, what must be done to see them; 3) if they do not have the papers, who does have them or what happened to them?

100-2237-28

I would be very grateful for your help with this.

REC-2

Sincerely,

5 OCT 24 1975

[redacted]

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-3-80 BY SP4 Jmplete

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[redacted]

59

erator put Tesla's name among the world's top scientists.

From his invention sprang the industrial age we live in. For without his alternating current, there would be no mass production of automobiles, aircraft, refrigerators; no great water-power dams and generating plants, no Diesel-electric trains; we could not have developed radio, television or atomic power.

The *direct* current that Edison worked with—a feeble force at best—could be sent no more than a couple of miles over wires because its power leaked away rapidly into the surrounding atmosphere. Lights near the power station might burn brightly and steadily, but those near the end of the line would be dim and fluttering.

Tesla sold his basic alternating-current patents in 1888, for a million dollars down. By 1895, the first great power station at Niagara Falls had been built, and by the end of 1896, two more Tesla generators had been installed. Within a few years, the pace of life over half the earth had changed from a crawl to a fast gallop—and it has been gathering speed ever since.

THE MAN who, by his brilliant idea of a "rotating magnetic field," changed the face of the earth and the living habits of the human race was a Croat, born in 1857 in Smiljan, a village in what is now Yugoslavia, but was then part of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire.

When he was about six, Nikola Tesla's father, the village priest, was transferred to a larger parish in the city of Gospic. There, the lad grew up and perfected his earliest "inventions." Of these, his favorite was an "engine" powered by 16 June bugs, harnessed in sets of four to spokes which radiated from the drive shaft.

Nikola was a frail lad, often ill; and he nearly went blind from too much reading. He read everything he could get his hands on, not only science but also religion, philosophy, history, literature. By the time he finished high school, he was fluent in French, German and Italian, as well as his native Serbo-Croat.

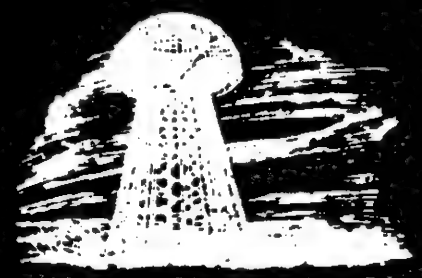
He got his schooling—the best his doting family could afford—at Gospic, Carlstadt, Gratz, the University of Prague and, finally, at Budapest. At the University, he saw his first electric motor, a new type direct-current affair whose brushes and commutators sent out showers of crackling blue sparks.

"If we got rid of those brushes and commutators, with all that noise and loss of energy, we'd have a much better motor," Nikola told his professor. "Perhaps it might be done with an alternating current."

"Nonsense!" barked the professor. "An alternating current would never run anything. You're not the brilliant student I thought you were. Forget it!"

But Tesla could not forget. The teacher's ridicule only stamped the idea indelibly on his brain. It became an obsession, a passion—how to make an alternating current drive a motor. In every idle moment, wherever he went, he wrestled with this problem.

Tesla's mind had an unusual twist. Almost from infancy, he had been able to see things in his mind's eye so vividly—and in such minute detail—that often he had trouble telling the real from the imaginary.



Where the average engineer or inventor would reach instinctively for drawing board, paper and pencil, Tesla would simply switch on that uncanny magic lantern inside his brain. He would fix a mental image there. Then he would alter this detail or that, discard one plan, try another, without ever putting a line on paper.

Years later, from these mental images alone, he could give his workmen exact instructions on how to build each part of a new device, though it was unlike anything ever seen before.

Thus, needing no drafting room and few laboratory conveniences to work on an idea, Tesla could use every spare minute that he had to test and revise his theory of alternating current.

His first real job was manager of a newly organized telephone company in Budapest. But telephone circuits were dull stuff compared with the challenge of that one big idea. He moved to Paris where he became a kind of general trouble-shooter for the Continental Edison Company.

His brain was still chipping away at his big problem, but the trouble was, he couldn't share it with trained men who might have helped him work it out. For whenever he mentioned alternating current to an electrical engineer, the man would look at him as though he were crazy.

But then came the moment when he knew he had solved it. He was walking with a friend in the Bois de Boulogne. Suddenly, he stopped short and began jabbing with his cane at some invisible object in the air.

"See, it works!" he boomed. "It is the rotating magnetic field which causes the armature to turn. It pulls the magnets around with it, causing the shaft to revolve. As I oscillate this switch, causing the current to flow first in one direction, then the other . . ."

Never mind what his friend thought. Tesla had the answer.

At the office, his colleagues scoffed or looked blank. But the manager, listening to the outpourings of scientific jargon, suddenly thought of his boss back in the United States. If there *were* some truth in what the Croat said, surely the famous electrical wizard would be smart enough to see it.

So he gave Tesla a letter of introduction to Thomas Edison and urged him to try his luck in America. Thus, Tesla, now 27, arrived in New York. He was handsome, over six-feet-two, with a distinguished head and deep-set blue eyes. His Slavic face was broad across the cheekbones, his dark hair thick, his chin sharply pointed. Of worldly goods, he had the clothes on his back, four cents in cash, the letter to Edison, and the idea which was to change the world.

Edison thought less than nothing of the idea. It seemed so preposterous that he wouldn't even listen

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and, of course, Tesla had no drawings with which to try to convince him. But Edison gave him a job, for he had excellent training as an engineer and Edison needed trained men.

Busy with routine electrical work, Tesla waited nearly three years for a chance to turn his mental image into an actual motor he could show to others. In 1887, he was able to borrow enough money to start his own laboratory, and the following year the alternating-current motor and generator were practical realities—on a laboratory scale—though much practical engineering would still be needed to fit them to commercial use.

George Westinghouse, another inventor, was the first to see their value. He bought the patents and gave Tesla a job as engineer in his Pittsburgh factory.

But Tesla couldn't get along with the other Westinghouse engineers. From his standpoint, the alternating-current job was done. Even "schoolboys" could now iron out the few remaining kinks. Meantime, his brain had started to hatch even bigger dreams. He went back to his laboratory in New York.

"Be alone," he once told a science writer. "That's the secret of invention. Be alone—that's where great ideas are born."

AHEAD HE WAS. In the years that followed, Tesla had many admiring acquaintances, but seldom a friend. After his mother, no woman ever entered his personal life.

His manner toward others was cordial but reserved, distant. His words were as if uttered by some god, sitting on an Olympus high above the rest of humanity. Backed by his fame, those words made a tremendous impression.

He lectured at every scientific center in this country and in all the important capitals abroad. Things which, as yet, existed only inside that amazing brain of his were so real to him, he made them real to his listeners.

He described radar and radio broadcasting and even television. He advocated electro-therapy. He foresaw a day when man would control nature in every respect—even the weather—when machines of all kinds, and the power to run them, would be so cheap that poverty would vanish from the world.

Without wanting to be, Tesla was a superb actor. After listening to him and seeing his wonders, audiences were ready to believe nearly anything.

Tesla reasoned that you could sell electric power cheap if you could do away with the millions of poles and insulators, the millions of tons of copper wire used to transmit it from place to place. He thought he knew how to do it—and J. P. Morgan backed him with $300,000.

On Long Island, Tesla built a huge power plant with a 154-foot steel-ribbed tower topped by an enormous mushroom-shaped copper dome. From this dome he planned to bombard the earth's crust with millions of volts of electric energy. The power so added to the earth's permanent charge could be drained off at some other point—*any* point—on the earth's surface. Thus, it would be possible for electric power to be sent anywhere without conduits, poles or wires. Or so he thought, until he tried it.

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In November, 1928, Tesla announced that he could abolish war. The inventor had designed a small, inexpensive, radio-controlled boat which, through its supposed ability to destroy the biggest battleships, would make great navies useless. Not many years later, he was talking of another super-weapon a "death ray" which would annihilate whole armies.

Yet Tesla never suspected that the real super-weapon of the future would come from atomic fission. For Einstein's basic notion which led to smashing the atom, he had only ridicule. Alone in his middle age, he had fallen out of step with the world's great thinker.

Not all Tesla's later inventions were fantastic. Some, like his induction coils and oscillators, and pioneer work on "tuned" electrical circuits, were highly important.

Though he never succeeded in transmitting power without wires on a big scale, he *did* prove that a single wire is enough. And some of his brilliant prophecies inspired the more plodding scientists to work out the practical problems of induction heating, radio-telephone, radar and many other electronic marvels of today.

But as he grew older, he withdrew further and further within himself. His strange prophecies sounded like a voice from another planet. For companionship now, the old man had only his dreams, and they grew stranger with the years. Completely alone at last, a stooped, gaunt figure with thin, silvery hair, he used to slip from his hotel room, buy a bag of bird seed and trudge slowly over to a park where hundreds of pigeons waited him. These were his friends. They needed him, though the world did not.

When he grew too ill to go out, each day he sent a Western Union messenger to the park. After feeding the birds, the boy was instructed to see if any of them seemed sick. If so, he was to bring them back to Tesla's room where the inventor would nurse them gently back to health.

Perhaps this sad little labor of love showed that the man who changed the world had, at last, discovered a great truth. Perhaps he knew now that the greatest power for good lies not in lonely thought but in a human heart pulsating like his own "tuned circuits"—in tune with the hearts of his fellowmen. Or did he ever know? You could never be sure about Tesla.

Winnie Wit

IN THE EARLY 1920s, when Winston Churchill had offended both his own supporters and the political opposition, the late George Bernard Shaw wrote him: "I enclose two vouchers for the première of my new play, for yourself and a friend if any."

Back to the playwright promptly came the theater checks with this note from "Winnie": "I regret I am unable to attend the première of your new play. Please send me two vouchers for the second performance if any."

—[illegible]

63

RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

At long last Serbians—American and Canadian—have acted to honor the memory and achievements of one of Serbia's greatest sons.

For the world-wide Centennial celebration of Dr. Nikola Tesla's birth next year, Serbs on this Continent plan to erect a bust statue of the electrical genius to stand before the entrance of the Monastery at Libertyville, Ill.

Steps looking towards that end were taken at the recent SNF convention following the reading of a letter by President Mike Radakovich from His Grace, Bishop Nicolai. As the universally-renowned churchman stated, erection of a suitable monument, by Serbians, would forever remind other Serbs of the honor and glory of Dr. Nikola Tesla . . . . And that he was a SERBIAN, son of a SERBIAN ORTHODOX clergyman, born in the SERBIAN SELO of Smiljan in Lika.

Further, His Grace urged that the undertaking be a joint one and representative of ALL the Serbian organizations in the United States and Canada. He naturally looked to the SNF for leadership, and the greatest monetary contribution. But he also besought the help of the Serbian Nat'l Defense and the Jedinstvo beneficial society.

The Convention voted $1000 for the project and a hand collection was taken up among the delegates and guests, kinsmen Milos Konjevich of Joliet, Ill., giving $200. It is probable that the balance of the needed $3000 will be raised thru public good-will offerings and via cash gifts of the other two organizations mentioned.

And after a suitable bust has been erected for Dr. Tesla, Bishop Nicolai suggested a similar-like monument honor the memory of Dr. Mihailo Pupin, also a world-renowned scientist, author and educator.

This is a subject near and dear to all good Serbian hearts

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-3-80 BY [illegible]

INDEXED - 36
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NOT RECORDED
12 OCT 7 1955

"AMERICAN SRBOBRAN"
September 28, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pa.

EX-113
7531
60 OCT 7 1955
100-2237
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INFORMATION CONTAINED
UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ste

SNF Opens Drive for Tesla Memorial at Libertyville

$2000 PUBLIC AID SOUGHT

PITTSBURGH, PA. — The Serb Nat'l Federation Executive Board has acted quickly to implement a Convention decision to honor the memory of the illustrious Dr. Nikola Tesla.

At its first meeting of October 8, the Board drafted a resolution calling on all SNF members and good Serbians to help finance a memorial project for the late scientist-inventor genius.

This would stand before the entrance of the Monastery in Libertyville, Ill.

Cost of the contemplated project, which would clarion to the world that Dr. Tesla was a Serbian, is estimated at $3000. The Convention voted $1000 to the cause and a hand collection among 122 delegates yielded several hundred dollars more.

Kinsman Milos Konjevich of Joliet, Ill., gave $200.

Public Aid Sought

Balance of the needed sum is now being sought thru good-will offerings of the general Serbian populace in the United States and Canada.

A fund, similar to the one being conducted to help defray mortgage expenses on Shadeland, has been established.

It is hoped to raise the necessary monies and complete the project in time for the world-wide Centennial celebration for the genius next year.

Spearheading the movement for recognition, especially among American elements, is the TESLA SOCIETY, founded by scientist-engineer Leland Anderson, a fanatical admirer of the late Dr. Nikola Tesla.

Mr. Anderson right now is conducting a search for a famous portrait of the Serbian electrical wizard done at the turn of the century in New York.

Seek Missing Portrait

In his current TESLAIAN publication, Mr. Anderson revealed the work, by Princess Vilma Lwoff-Parlaghy, is missing.

Reviewing developments, Mr. Anderson wrote:

"On March 1, 1916, the Princess gave a reception in her new studio in New York especially to exhibit her latest protrait of Nikola Tesla. An article in the NEW YORK TIMES for March 2, 1916, stated—

" 'It was one of the beliefs of Mr. Tesla that there was something unlucky about posing for a picture and he never sat to any before he entered the studio of the Princess. The room which she had chosen did not have a sky-light in it and the much desired North exposure was missing.

" 'At the suggestion of Mr. Tesla, a cluster of powerful incandescents was put up in the corner of the apartment and the rays, filtered thru blue glass, were just the right quality. The portrait was shown under the same illumination.

At Ease for Sitting

" 'Mr. Tesla, having solved the problem of the artifical sun, fell to thinking about other parts of the universe, and there he sat oblivious to his surroundings.

" 'The painter was able to produce a likeness in which there is no evidence that the subject was conscious that anybody was watching him, much less studying his features from the other side of the easel.

" 'Among those who attended the reception were Mrs. C. B. Alexander, Henry P. Davison, the Countless de Rittenburg and Mrs. E. T. Isham.' "

After the Princess died, in 1923, her studio and all objects of art, was sold at auction.

The Tesla portrait, 53x48 inches, appeared on the cover of TIME magazine (July 20, 1931) and in the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER (January 1919), Mr. Anderson says.

Its location is not now known.

INDEXED - 14
100-2237-A
NOT RECORDED
129 NOV 4 1955

AMERICAN SRBOBRAN
October 26, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pa.

EX-105
65
27
58 NOV 9 1955
100-2237

[illegible]LAF $1580

Half of $3000 Costs For Statue Pledged

Cadiz, O., Serb Gives $100 For Bust Image of Inventor To Be Placed at Monastery

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Half of the $3000 fund goal for a statue memorial of the late Dr. Nikola Tesla has been realized, the SNF announced today.

In fact, total contributions counted so far come to $1580.

The Fund is an outgrowth of a plea by Bishop Nicolai for Serbians to do honor for the memory of the noted electrical wizard during the world-wide Centennial celebration planned for the genius next year.

In the wake of the plea, voiced at the recent 7th Convention at Niagara Falls, Canada, the delegates approved a $1000 gift from the SNF and decided to raise, by public grant, the balance of $2000.

A hand collection among the 122 grass-roots leaders of the Society raised another $450. Then, at its first meeting October 5, the newly-elected Executive Board of the SNF appealed to the membership at large to fulfill the balance required.

First Contribution $100

A scant 24 hours after the appeal was published in the Society's "Srbobran" organ last Wednesday, Sime Zelich of Cadiz, O., gave $100.

The proposed memorial, a statue image, would be placed before the entrance of the St. Sava Serbian Monastery in Libertyville, Ill.

historians, writers, educators, scientists, etc., would not be misled, Bishop Nicolai believes.

Be that as it may, the SNF's goal is to amass the needed monies in time to erect and dedicate the memorial before the Tesla Centennial celebration ends.

Donors and the amounts of their donations are as follows:

SNF	$ 1000.00
Delegate M. Konjevich	200.00
" Todor Dragich	50.00
" Petar Borovich	25.00
SNF Counsel N. Stone	25.00
Delegate N. Stepanovich	20.00
" Maxim Jakovac	20.00
" Ilija Janjanin	20.00
" Lou Balta	10.00
" Jovan Vukcevich	10.00
" Milan Kajganovich	10.00
" Stevan Rogulja	10.00
" Bogdan Dragicich	5.00
" Milan Tomich	5.00
" Todor Vuicich	5.00
" Djuro Lukich	5.00
" G. Stoisavljevich	5.00
" R. Vukadinovich	5.00
" Janko Mrmich	5.00
" Petar Maravich	5.00
" Mirko Baranin	5.00

INFORMATION CONTAINED IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-80 BY [illegible]

NOV 14

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bian Monastery in Libertyville,

"There it would proclaim to
ns of thousands of Serbian
sitors annually that Nikola
esla was of Serbian immigrant
ock and son of a Serbian
rthodox clergyman," Bishop
icolai declared.

For half a century and more,
general American public has
en misled anent the nationality
the man who foretold the com-
of atomic energy power.

Only recently, a prominent
American magazine listed him,
ncorrectly, as of Croatian
tock. The mistake was subse-
uently publicly corrected with
pologies by the publication.

But lacking an image reference,
th historical statistics, similar
rors are likely in the future.

Old References Poor

The magazine publication, for
stance, explained it obtained its
ference material from an anti-
ated guide book.

Since the misleading matter
re was never challenged by
rbians and other interested
rties before, the magazine logi-
ly assumed it was factual.

Erection of a bust statue,
lso listing Dr. Tesla's date of
irth, birthplace, patents, etc.,
ould counter the old error
nd make certain that future

Centennial celebration ends.

Donors and the amounts of their donations are as follows:

SNF	$ 1000.00
Delegate M. Konjevich	200.00
" Todor Dragich	50.00
" Petar Borovich	25.00
SNF Counsel N. Stolac	25.00
Delegate N. Stepanovich	20.00
" Maxim Jakovac	20.00
" Ilija Janjanin	20.00
" Lou Balta	10.00
" Jovan Vukcevich	10.00
" Milan Kajganovich	10.00
" Stevan Rogulja	10.00
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" Milan Tomich	5.00
" Todor Vuicich	5.00
" Djuro Lukich	5.00
" G. Stoisavljevich	5.00
" R. Vukadinovich	5.00
" Janko Mrmich	5.00
" Petar Maravich	5.00
" Mirko Baranin	5.00
" Stanko Jelich	5.00
★ ★ ★	
Prof. Anthony Tomovich (Edmonton, Alberta, Can.)	10.00
Teta Andia Mamula (Pittsburgh)	5.00
Martha Mamula Bjelosh (Pittsburgh)	10.00
Sime Zelich (Cadiz, O.)	100.00
Milinko Alexich, war invalid (Omaha, Nebr.)	
Total	$ 1,[illegible]

—the honoring, forever, of two of Serbia's best-known immigrant sons who contributed so greatly to the welfare and prosperity of their adopted America.

We hope to report developments as soon as they take place, remembering Bishop Nikolai's concluding remarks:

"Nikola Tesla, in the field of science, brought the Serbian name great glory—just as did the greatest Serbian knights on the field of battle."

23 June 56

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

Gentlemen:

During my senior year at Georgetown University I read J.J.O'Niel's Biography of Nikoli Tesla; the book, entitled "Prodigal Genius", described quite a few of Tesla's experiments, most of which I tried myself in the physics lab. I am interested in reviewing Tesla's experiments in wireless electric power transmission.

Unfortunately, Tesla died in 1945 just at the time he supposedly had developed a system of wireless power transmission. Since World War II was then in progress his papers were seized and sealed by the F.B.I. I suppose that by now Tesla's papers have been released for publication, but a call to the Library of Congress produced no results. Therefore, I have two questions:

1) Does the F.B.I. now have Tesla's scientific papers?

2) If so, are they available for public inspection? If they were released, who has them?

I will certainly appreciate any help you can give me along these lines. Tesla published very little of his findings; this, coupled with the fact that wireless power is connected by most people with "Death Rays" and crack-pots has made it nearly impossible for me to find anything on the subject.

Yours very truly,

[redacted]

[redacted] (b) (7) (C)

RECORDED - 86 100-2237-7

JUL 3 1956

[redacted] (b) (7) (C)

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jonpete

(b) (7) (C) [redacted]

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100-2237-7
RECORDED - 86
INDEXED - 86

EX-122

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[redacted]
(6)(7)(C)

L INFORMATION CONTAINED
EREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY [redacted]

June 29, 1956

Dear [redacted]

Nikola Tesla

Your letter dated June 26, 1956, has been received, and in response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMM — FBI
JUN 29 1956
MAILED 24

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no record on correspondent and reveal the correct spelling of Tesla's name as "Nikola." Bufiles reflect this type of reply has been utilized by the Domestic Intelligence Division in answering similar inquiries. (65-47953; 100-2237) Cover memo from Mr. Belmont to Boardman 6-29-55, set out background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe containing his effects was done by the Office of Alien Property.

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

[redacted]
(3)

(6)(7)(C)

JUL 17 1956

F 350

69

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/25/57

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (65-12290)

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased)
IS -YU

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp

[redacted] Street, New York (b)(7)(D) -1, 24, New York, a United States citizen of Yugoslav extraction, who on occasion, voluntarily furnishes the New York Office with information he considers to be in the interests of the Security of the United States Government, furnished Special Agent NICHOLAS J. MASTROVICH the following information on July 3, 1957:

MR. & MRS. JOHN STORM

[redacted] stated that a certain woman named (b)(7)(D) Mrs. MARGARET STORM who lives with her husband, JOHN, at the Colonial Hotel, 51 West 81st Street, New York 24, New York, has been issuing newsletters which contain information pertaining to flying saucers and interplanetary matters.

SPACE NEWSLETTERS NEWSLE

[redacted] stated that in his opinion Mr. and (b)(7)(D) Mrs. STORM are exploiting the reputation and genius of NIKOLA TESLA, deceased, inventor of Yugoslav extraction who achieved world wide fame as a result of his inventions in the United States.

TESLA was born in Smiljan, Yugoslavia in July, 1859 and came to the United States in 1894 and became a naturalized United States citizen. In 1886 TESLA designed the arc-lighting system and two years later he invented the Tesla motor and designed a plan for the transmission of alternating current. In subsequent years, TESLA's discoveries and inventions included such fields and appliances as wireless communication, electrical oscillation, radiant power and radio active matter. After 1900, communications and wireless power transmission occupied most of his research.

REC-D - ENCLOSURE 62 SE 43 100-2237 - REC-D

(2) - Bureau (RM) (Encs.2)
1 - Los Angeles (Info) (Encl.1) (RM)
1 - New York (65-12290)

RECORDED-56

INDEXED-56

14 JUL 29 1957

NJM:mcd
(4)

AUG 0 1957

70

TESLA's only military invention was a method to which he once eluded but never fully described. This invention was a means whereby an inpenetrable "wall of force" can be erected around the United States' borders which would render helpless any military attack. TESLA disclosed the existence of his plan in 1934 and stated he intended to present it to the Geneva Conference but seldom referred to it afterward.

The "New York Times" dated 9/22/40, carried an article setting forth NICOLA TESLA's plan for a "Death Ray". This article included information to the effect that TESLA, on his 84th birthday, July 10, 1940, advised New York Times reporter WILLIAM LAURENCE that he was ready to divulge to the United States Government the secret of his "teleforce", with which he said airplane motors would be melted at a distance of 250 miles so that an invisible Chinese wall of defense would be built around the country against any attempted attack by an enemy airforce no matter how large. According to TESLA, this "teleforce" was based on an entirely new principle of Physics that "no one has ever dreamed about" and was different from the principle embodied in his inventions relating to the transmission of electrical power from a distance, for which he received a number of basic patents.

TESLA stated that this new type of force would operate through a beam one hundredth millionth of a square centimeter in diameter and could be generated from a special plant that would cost no more than two million dollars and would take only about three months to construct. TESLA stated that a dozen such plants located at strategic points along the coast, according to TESLA, would be enough to defend the United States against all possible aerial attacks. TESLA stated that this beam would melt any engine and would also ignite explosives aboard any bomber. TESLA stated that no possible defense against it could be devised and he asserted that the beam would be all penetrating.

TESLA stated to Mr. LAWRENCE that he makes one important stipulation before he would divulge this secret to the United States Government and that was that should the United States Government decide to take up his offer, he would go to work at once but that the United States Government would have to trust him. TESLA stated that he would suffer "no interference from experts."

In this "New York Times" article Mr. LAWRENCE commented that with conditions as they were in 1940, and with the United States getting ready to spend millions of dollars for National Defense, Mr. TESLA's great reputation as an inventor, who always was many years ahead of his time, should be given careful consideration. Mr. LAWRENCE stated, in his opinion, the United States Government should take Mr. TESLA at his word and commission him to go ahead with the construction of his "teleforce" plant.

The New York file of Mr. TESLA bears no indication that any additional developments were carried on in connection with TESLA's invention and whether or not TESLA fully divulged his new plan to the United States Government.

TESLA died at the age of 85 on January 7, 1943.

Mr. [redacted] provided a two page copy of the above mentioned newsletter which Mr. and Mrs. STORM have been distributing in connection with the alleged invention by TESLA, which, according to Mr. and Mrs. STORM, consists of a radio type machine known as the Tesla Set which was invented by Mr. TESLA in 1938 for interplanetary communication. Mr. and Mrs. STORM claim that TESLA's engineers did not complete the Tesla Set until after TESLA's death in 1943. Mr. and Mrs. STORM claim that this Set was placed in operation in 1950 and since that time TESLA engineers have been in close touch with space ships. etc. (X)(D)

The Newsletter furnished by Mr. [redacted] included (6)(7)(D) the following names:

MARGARET STORM
JOHN STORM
GEORGE VAN TASSEL, Yucca Valley, California NY
DAN FRY NY - NMEX
GEORGE KING, London, England

The files of the New York Office contained no pertinent information regarding any of the above mentioned individuals. ARTAHO NY

Two photostatic copies of this newsletter are being sent to the Bureau for purposes of information while one copy is being submitted to the Los Angeles Office for information purposes.

[redacted] (b) (7) (C)

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

L INFORMATION CONTAINED
EIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
E 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/ptc

Dear Sir:

I an hopeful that you can help me obtain certain information on records and data, which belonged to Dr. Nikola Tesla. He was an Electrical Engineer and prolific inventor.

He was born in Yugoslavia in 1856 and died in the United States, New York City, January 7th, 1943. He was a naturalized citizen of this country.

The only information I could find of his records was a report that the F.B.I. removed his papers for examination, and that the records were sealed by the custodian of alien property.

I have been doing some theoretical research of my own, which I believe may be along the same lines he followed in certain of his experiments. I also believe the development of his ideas would be in the interest of our country regardless of who developes them.

If it is at all possible for me to have access to at least some of his experimental work, I would certainly appreciate it. I am not able, by reason of the vast finances, which would be required, to conduct such experiments myself, so the data he made and collected would be invaluable.

Of course, it is possible that his records do not contain material pertinent to his electronics work, because from what I understand from reading about him, he kept most of his records in his head and wrote down very little of his data.

It is also possible that some of his ideas are impractical, but I feel sure that certain of his ideas will be of immense value to our country within the next several decades or even before, if they are developed at a rapid rate.

I would appreciate hearing from you on the subject, if you have any information pertaining to it, which you could make available to me.

100 - 2237 - 9

REC-1

Sincerely,

16 MAR 18 1958

[redacted]

Ack 3/14/58 [redacted]

[redacted] (b) (7) (C)

74

March 14, 1958

REC-1

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter postmarked March 1, 1958, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property in the Department of Justice and not by the FBI.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no record on correspondent. Bufiles reflect above type of reply has been utilized in the past in answering similar inquiries. (100-2237-7) Cover Memorandum from Belmont to Boardman 6/20/55 set forth background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, well-known electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and [illegible] of the safe containing his effects was done by the Office of Alien Property.

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Nease
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

COMM - FBI
MAR 14 1958
MAILED 19

MAIL ROOM

75

June 24, 1957

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/rtc

Dear Sirs,

I am doing a research study on the life of Dr. Nikola Tesla of New York City (1856 - 1943), and desire information which you may have. It was reported in the book "Prodigal Genius" that Dr. Tesla's papers were seized from his New York hotel room upon his death in 1943 by the F.B.I. I am very interested in getting copies of his papers for my study and would like to know if this report is true and where I might obtain further information about them or if you are holding them.

REC-91 100-2237

EX 101

Sincerely ~~yours~~,

[redacted]

(b)
(7)
(C)

CRIME REC

NOT XG

July 2, 1959

REC-91

100-2237-1D

[redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

L INFORMATION CONTAINED
EIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-87 BY SP4 Jonjate

Dear [redacted]

Your letter dated June 24, 1959, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I wish to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

MAILED 5
JUL 2 1959
COMM-FBI

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department who did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

Leo

RW

[redacted]
(3)

FBI

(b)(7)(C)

[redacted]

Tolson
Belmont
DeLoach
McGuire
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

57 JUL 9 1959

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

77

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

TO : MR. TROTTER

DATE: 12-6-60

FROM : A. K. Bowles

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (DECEASED)
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY

(b)(7)(C)

[redacted] telephoned December 6 and was referred to Ident by switchboard because he wanted to talk with someone in charge of records of deceased. [redacted] said he is making a research study for U. S. Air Force on subject of geophysics. His deadline is ten days from now. [redacted] said he just discovered a sentence in a book by John J. O'Neill entitled "The Prodigal Genius -- The Life of Nikola Tesla," which states the FBI took custody of papers from Tesla's safe after his death in New York City in 1943. Tesla was a world-famous Yugoslav scientist and inventor in the electrical field who died January 7, 1943, in New York City. [redacted] requested immediate access to Tesla's scientific works which may shed light on [redacted] research study. I told [redacted] we would have somebody from our Boston Office contact him immediately.

(b)(7)(C)

Bureau file 100-2237 shows no investigation of Tesla has been conducted by Bureau. Since erroneous statement concerning FBI's taking custody of papers from Tesla's safe after his death appeared in O'Neill's book published in 1944, Bureau has received numerous inquiries from scientists desiring to review Tesla's writings. Each inquiry has been answered by stating FBI did not participate in handling Tesla's effects, but information has come to our attention that Office of Alien Property of Department of Justice may have examined Tesla's effects. (File indicates that representatives of Office of Alien Property did actually review Tesla's possessions, including his writings, but file does not show what final disposition was made of Tesla's possessions.)

A teletype to Boston Division was prepared, but before it was sent [redacted] telephoned again to furnish me the exact page in O'Neill's book in which he refers to the FBI. At that time I told [redacted] the statement in the book was untrue -- that the FBI had not examined or taken custody of Tesla's papers. I suggested to [redacted] that he might contact Office of Alien Property. (Therefore, teletype to Boston was not necessary.) 100-2237-11

ACTION:

For record.

AKB:bjs

EX-113 REC-38 5 DEC 8 1960

51 DEC 13 1960

(5)

Bu file 100-2237
1- Mr. Belmont

78

[redacted]
(b)
(7)
(c)

February 14, 1961

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Information
Washington 25, D. C.

[redacted] INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY [redacted]

Dear Sir:

I am a college student who is doing a research paper on Nikola Tesla. As I was collecting the material for my paper, I discovered that at the time of Tesla's death, the department of the F.B.I. confiscated the data and papers that Tesla had collected from his research in the field of electricity. This confiscation of his material was stated in the PRODIGAL GENIUS by J.J. O'Neil, published in 1944 at New York city by Washburn Inc.

I have developed an interest in the discoveries and accomplishments of Tesla that is presently limited by the shortage of factual material. If in your files, you have any information concerning Nikola Tesla that you are permitted to release, I will sincerly appreciate your co-operation in helping me give the proper recognition to this great scientist and American. Below I have listed the facts that may be helpful to you;

REC- 55 100-22137-18

FEB 28 1961

EX.-102

1. Born in 1856 at Smiljan, Crotia, now Yugoslavia
2. Came to America in 1884 and was employed for a short time with the Edison Co. at Orange, N.J.
3. Died on January 7, 1943 at New York city

Thanking you for your time and co-operation that I have taken, I remain,

Sincerly Yours,

[redacted]

(b)
(7)
(c)

79

esd

100-2237-12

REC- 55

EX-76

February 23, 1961

[redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY [signature]

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter of February 14, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

In response to your inquiry, I wish to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you desire.

MAILED 10
FEB 23 1961
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

(b)(7)(C)

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department who did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

[redacted]

(3)

50 MAR 6 1961

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

(b)(7)(C)

Tolson
Parsons
Mohr
Belmont
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Tavel
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

90

November 21, 1962

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington 25, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I am making a study, motivated out of personal curiosity, into the life and works of Nikola Tesla. Mr. Tesla died on January 7, 1943 in the Hotel New Yorker. Since F.B.I. Operatives opened his safe and took his papers for examination, I wonder if these papers are available for perusal? If they are available, where would they be located, and are copies available to the public?

I am a citizen of the United States, and have been cleared for security--- the latest one being for work on [redacted]

Thank you very much for any information or help you may be able to give me in this matter!!

Respectfully yours,

[redacted]

(6)
(7)
(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ste

EX-114

REC-39 100-2237 1B

5 NOV 28 1962

[redacted] 11-27-62

81

RA 7-114

100-2237-13

REC-39

November 27, 1962

[redacted]

(b)(7)(c) ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jenkins

REC'D-READING ROOM FBI NOV 27 4 53 PM '62

Dear [redacted]

Your letter of November 21st has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since this Bureau did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[redacted]

MAILED 8
NOV 27 1962
COMM-FBI

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 shows that Dr. Tesla was one of the world's outstanding scientists in the electrical field, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating Dr. Tesla's property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply has been forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Dr. Tesla was born in Yugoslavia and died in New York City 1-7-43.

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[redacted] (3)

[redacted] DECLASSIFIED DIRECTED

140

53 DEC 3 1962

[redacted]

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[redacted]

82

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

16 March 1964.

Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington 25, D.C.

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-19-82 BY SP1 JSK/mlr

Dear Sirs,

For some time, I have been wondering about the matter of what was reported on the late Nikola Tesla, the inventor. He died during early January 1943, while in residence at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City. I wonder how it that his belongings, (papers, etc.) were studied. Would appreciate knowing if anything can be learned about this.

I am hoping to be on leave, and in Washington, during the third week of April. This is optional, in case it is possible to view anything relating to the question.

Sincerely,

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

[redacted]

IT 3-17-64
Ack 3.18.64

83

TRUE COPY

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

[redacted] 10 March 1964.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sirs,

For some time, have been wondering about the matter of what was reported on the late Nikola Tesla, the inventor. He died during early January 1943, while in residence at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City. Accounts have it that his belongings (papers, etc.) were studied. Would appreciate learning if anything can be learned about this.

Am hoping to be on leave, and in Washington, along the third week of April. This is mentioned, in case it is possible to view anything relating to the question.

Sincerely,

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/rtc

L

3-17-64 mc

ack 3-18-64

100-2237-14

10 MAR 13 1964

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

84

REC-130 Ex. 11

100-2237-14

March 18, 1964

[redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

Dear [redacted]

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jan/ste

Your letter of March 10th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAR 18 4 11 PM '64 FBI REC'D-READING ROOM

MAILED 19
MAR 18 1964
COMM-FBI

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believe dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department who did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

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Holmes
Gandy

(3) [redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

57 MAR 2[illegible]

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

85

TRUE COPY

Sir,

According to "Prodical Genius, Nikola Tesla" by J. J. O'Neil (a book) some papers were taken from the safe of Mr. Festa about 1945 yr. Is this true. If so are the papers declasified yet? If so may I obtain a copy?

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

Sir,

According to "Prodical Genius, Nikola Tesla" by J. J. O'Neil (a book) some papers were taken from the safe of Mr. Tesla about 1945 yr. Is this true. If so are the papers declasified yet? If so may I obtain a copy?

REC-15
EX-10
100-2237-15
JUN 23 1964

[redacted] b(7)(c)

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jan/rte

96

June 22, 1964

REC-15 100-2237-15

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmplate

REC'D-READING ROOM JUN 22 3 30 PM '64 F B I

Dear [redacted]

Your card of June 16th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

MAILED 20 JUN 22 1964 COM

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical invent and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized han The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took ov a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did s and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

[redacted] (3)

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RECEIVED DIRECTOR

JUN 22 10 9 MM '64

64 JUN 26 1964

97

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
CORVALLIS, OREGON 97331
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
Reply to: DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SCIENCE

March 28, 1967

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Department of Information
9th Street & Pennsylvania Aven, N.W.
Washington 25, D. C. 20535

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/pte

Dear Sirs:

I am a student of the history of science at Oregon State University, and I am attempting to write a research paper on a very eccentric scientist who died in 1943. His name was Nikola Tesla, a naturalized American of Serbian extraction, and he died in his hotel room in New York City on January 8, 1943.

During the years leading up to World War II, Nikola Tesla supposedly invented a "Death Ray" which could destroy several hundred aircraft. Mr. Tesla was a very prolific and creative genius during his early years but gradually became something of a crackpot in his old age. As a student of the history of science, it is important to determine whether or not Tesla had any valid ideas in the plans for his death ray. Tesla invented the fluorescent light and also was one of the first scientists to discover X-Rays--hence there may be some possibility that his death ray might actually have been some crude type of laser.

In Tesla's biography, "Prodigal Genius", by John J. O'Neill, the author states on page 277:

> "Operatives from the F.B.I. came to Tesla's hotel room shortly after his death and opened the safe in his room. They took the papers that it contained in order to examine them for a reported secret invention of possible use in the war..."

I am trying to locate Tesla's secret and unpublished writings concerning his death ray. I have searched the literature quite thoroughly and have found nothing. Does the F.B.I. still have these papers or can you tell where I might be able to obtain these writings for examination? Any assistance or information that you may lend me will be very much appreciated.

100-2237-16

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

REC 49
(6)
(7)
(C)
12 APR 4 1967
4/3/67
CORRESPONDENCE 88

April 3, 1967

REC 49 100-2237-16

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmplt

(b) (7) (C)

Dear [redacted]

Your letter of March 28th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 30
APR 3 1967
COMM-FBI

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

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54 APR 11 1967

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[redacted] (b) (7) (C)

89

J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D. C.

TRUE COPY

[redacted]

Feb. 25, 1969

Dear Mr. Hoover,

[redacted]

In the year 1943 the F. B. I. confiscated all of the papers and maybe some of the machines of physicist, Nikola Tesla. These papers were his experiments and ideas at the time of his death. According to the books I've read, these papers were confiscated on the grounds of the enemy getting ahold of his ideas and apply them to war machines.

I have studied all of the material on this man and have found him to be more intelligent than the great "Brain" of his time, Thomas Edison.

Why without Nikola Tesla there would be Westinghouse Company as we know today. This is the man who harnessed Niagara Falls, and was the one and only man who could see the possibilities of Alternating Current when men like Edison said "it would never work."

What I am wondering is, maybe these papers could be reclassified from whatever "Top Secret" classification they now have and be made available for study by the people who understand and can gain knowledge from them.

I would be willing to pay for reproductions of his experiments if nothing else. He still has a great many ideas that have never been tried.

It disturbs me to think that everyone has forgotten about the ideas of this man when he was so advanced for his time.

I can say with assurance that no man alive can say that he knows all of Tesla's ideas. And studying other men's ideas is the way to advance in science faster.

100-2237-12

I hope something can be done to get these papers released.

Thank You,

[redacted]

(b)(7)(c)

/s/

[redacted]

100-2237-

90

Feb. 25, 1969

Dear Mr. Hoover,

In the year 1943 the F.B.I. confiscated all of the papers and maybe some of the machines of physicist, Nikola Tesla. These papers were his experiments and ideas at the time of his death. According to the books I've read, these papers were confiscated on the grounds of the enemy getting ahold of his ideas and apply them to war machines.

I have studied all of the material on this man and have found him to be more intelligent than the great "Brain" of his time, Thomas Edison. Why without Nikola Tesla there would be a Westinghouse Company as we know today. This is the man who harnessed Niagara Falls, and was the one and only man who could see the possibilities of Alternating Current when men like Edison said "it would never work".

What I am wondering is, maybe these papers could be reclassified from whatever "Top Secret" classification they now have and be made available for study by the people who understand and can gain knowledge from them. (b)(7)(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1-14-82 BY SP2 ALM/MLW

[redacted] CORRESPONDENCE

91

I would be willing to pay for reproductions of his experiments if nothing else. He still has a great many ideas that have never been tried.

It disturbs me to think that everyone has forgotten about the ideas of this man when he was so advanced for his time.

I can say with assurance that no man alive can say that he knows all of Tesla's ideas. And studying other men's ideas is the way to advance in science faster.

I hope something can be done to get these papers released.

Thank [redacted]

(b)(7)(c)

March 4, 1969

100-2237-17

[redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

Dear [redacted]

[redacted] INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 [illegible]

Your letter of February 25th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication has been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 10
MAR 4 - 1969
COMM-FBI

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.

[redacted] (3)

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54 MAR 13 1969

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[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

93

(b)(7)(c)

[redacted]

April 8, 1970

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Director of Central Records
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am doing a research paper on Nickola Tesla and would appreciate it if you could please provide me with the following information.

That information being why did your Bureau impound his personal effects immediately after his death on January 7, 1943. Secondly, could you provide a list of those effects, and lastly, when were they released and to whom were they given.

Thanking you for the information

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

P

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/stc

REC 44 100-2237-18

APR 15 1970

[redacted]

4/14/70

[redacted]

(b)(7)(c)

[redacted] CORRES

94

REC 44 100 2237-18

April 14, 1970

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/tc

[redacted] (6) (7) (C)

Dear [redacted]:

In reply to your inquiry of April 8th, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication has been referred to the Department of Justice for any help it may be able to offer.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[redacted] (b) (7) (c)

MAILED 9
APR 14 1970
COMM-FBI

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59 APR 20 1970

MAIL ROOM [redacted] TELETYPE UNIT [redacted]

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above [illegible] is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.

[redacted] (3) [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] (b) (7) (c) 95

July 15, 1970

REC-3 100-2237-19

[redacted] (6)(7)(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jan/pr

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter was received on July 13th and the interest which prompted you to write to me is appreciated. With respect to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and the FBI did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings. In addition, this Bureau is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and matters such as you mentioned do not come within the scope of this Bureau's authority.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

[redacted] (6)(7)(C)

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 8
JUL 15 1970
COMM-FBI

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and, at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. Bufiles indicate that the Office of Alien Property of the Department appropriated his property and replies similar to the above have been used to answer related inquiries.

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54 JUL 23 1970

[redacted] (2)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

[redacted] (6)(7)(C)

96

(b)(7)(c)

[redacted]

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmfpte

July 8, 1970.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington D. C.

O
N. T. L. - Tesla

Dear Sir,

I am writing this to you as I believe that most of the government is infiltrated with foreign agents, and there is a very good chance this could be of extreme importance for the defense of our nation.

I met a man a number of years ago that was raised on Long Island in the neighborhood where Mr. Tesla, inventor of the Tesla Coil, had his lab. He told me of Mr. Tesla's notes blowing down the street when the junk men were dismantling his equipment. It would be a wonderful thing is some of these notes were salvaged and could be found.

Mr. Tesla was at least a century ahead of his time. He sent radio signals around the world seventeen years prior to Mr. Marconi, who received the credit, and pioneered many fields. He was so far advanced that he had to invent a special math to keep up with his work.

He, on several accasions talked before the scientists of the world and became very angry at their inability to understand him, and due to this was violently disliked and didnot receive acknowledgement for his discoveries. One of the notes read by this man told of the radio transmission of electricity being brought to a high degree of effiency.

Now here is the thing that should be investigated throughly. During my High School education, in the winter of either 19-25-26 or 1926-27, I made a currant events report on an article appearing in a small publication of that name that was received weekly at the Troy Highschool, Troy Montana. It stated in this article that Mr. Tesla had made an offer to the Congress of the United States that if they would install radio transmission towers at every 150 miles around the border of this country, that he would install equipment that would broadcast a vertical plane of energy beyond the atmosphere through which no material object could pass as it would shatter or lose it's monecular coohesion. It was refused.

There is a good chance that this data is in the files of congress. What a defence, and boy do we need it. EX-117 REC-3 100-2237-19

I have had some results along this line with structured vortices of magnetic fields, but do not have the technical equipment or knowledge to carry out further experiments. The theory is quite simple and deals with particle acceleration, and it works to the best of my knowledge.

9 JUL 16 1970

Sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b)(6)(c)

97

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

6 DECEMBER 1971

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have recently begun a collection and reading file of all matters pertaining to Nikola Tesla. In so doing I was amazed to find that upon his death; January 7, 1943, in NYC, your bureau confined his papers. May I ask if you still "have them in jail". I am extremely interested in his work(s) and am trying to establish my own "Tesla" library. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

[redacted]

REC- 39 100-2237-20

16 DEC 15 1971

[redacted]

[redacted]

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY [redacted] (b)(7)(C)

[redacted]

98

December 14, 1971

REC- 28 100-2237-20

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jan/ate

(6)(7)(c)

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter of December 6th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. We did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings in any way. Copies of your communication and my reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record correspondent. Dr. Tesla was world-famous electrical inventor, and at death, his effects believed dangerous to country's security. "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges FBI took safe and appropriated his property. Above reply previously given to same inquiries. (100-2237) Material sent to the Assistant Attorney, Civil Division, of the Department.

[redacted] (4)

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

MAILED 8

FBI

58 DEC 21 1971

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Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

99

Federal Bureau Of Investigation
Ninth Street and Pennsylvania
Northeast Washington D. C. 20535

Dear Sirs,

Upon rea ding a biography on Nikola Tesla, I found the urge to read more on him and his works. At the end of the book it was stated that the F.B.I. went to his hotel room gathered up his papers and locked them in a vault. The thing I would like to know is the real reason they were locked up and if it would be possible to see some of these records and any other works of his.

I can think of only one possible reason as to cause of his records being locked up and that is because he was too far advanced for his time. This seems to be the only logical solution, but, with technology much more advanced now than in his time it would seem likely that scientists take over where he left off.

Please let me know If I can look at the records and if you can please answer my question of the real reason his records were locked up.

Thank You,

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jam/ptc

SI-113

(6)
(7)
(C)

[redacted]

REC-48 100-2237-21

Ack
10-31-22

100

SI-113

REC-48

100-2237-21

October 31, 1972

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 jmp/pto

(b)(7)(C)

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter was received on October 26th.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. I am forwarding a copy of your communication and of this reply to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray III

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

MAILED 8
OCT 31 1972
FBI

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.

Felt
Baker
Bates
Bishop
Callahan
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Conrad
Dalbey
Jenkins
Marshall
Miller, E.S.
Ponder
Soyars
Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Ms. He[illegible]
Mr. N[illegible]

[redacted]

57 NOV 6 1972

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(b)(7)(C) [redacted]

101

[redacted]

April 3, 973

[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington
District of Columbia

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jan/pte

Dear sirs:

During my research on Nikola Tesla, I found that the F.B.I. had confiscated his records pertaining to his experiments. I would like to know if such information is available and if so how copies might be obtained.

I am an engineering student and hope possibly to resume where Tesla left off.

I have the honor to remain,

[redacted]

EX-111 REC-36 100-223Z-22

APR 1973

CORRES 102

EX-111

REC-36

100-2237-22

April 11, 1973

[redacted]

(b) (7) (C) ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/pte

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter was received on April 9th.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication and of this reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray III

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. (Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.)

Mr. Felt
Mr. Baker
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Gebhardt
Mr. Jenkins
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Miller, E.S.
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Thompson
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Mr. Bowers
Mr. Herington
Ms. Herwig
Mr. Mintz
Mrs. Neenan

[redacted] (4)

APR 12 1973

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[redacted] (b) (7) (C)

103

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

June 20, 1973

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jpm/rtk

Gentlemen:

I would like to know if any microfilm or other reproductions of Nikola Tesla's notes and papers exist at your office. Tesla was a famous scientist who died in New York City. The Federal Bureau of Investigation entered his safe shortly after this to remove his papers for examination for the war effort. After the war the papers were offered to any group that would start a museum to house them. No one accepted and the papers were finally sent to the Tesla Museum in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, sometime in the early 1950's, possibly just before 1954. Tesla was the inventor of all ac motors and the polyphase system, as well as all flourescent and neon lamps. He was a major pioneer in the early days of radio and discovered many of the early principles of radar. He declined nomination of a Nobel Prize. He was a naturalized citizen of America and said he valued his citizenship papers above all his awards and possessions. Despite this, all his papers were sent to another nation.

I would like to examine some of his papers from 1899 and later without having to fly to Yugoslavia. I have only seen a condesnsed copy of his research from Colorado Springs, but am unable to obtain copies. The principles and equipment are rather out-of-date and well-known, but still useful in my research.

I would greatly appreciate help in this matter.

Sincerely, [redacted]

REC-26 100-223723

(b)(7)(C)

JUN 29 1973

P.S. Tesla died in January of 1943 and shortly after ~~this~~ the papers were removed from his safe. The original copies of these papers were sent abroad prior to 1954, as I believe it was in that year the Yugoslavs founded the Tesla Museum (not to be confused with the Tesla Institute).

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

104

EX-109

June 27, 1973

REC-26 100-2237-23

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY [illegible]

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter was received on June 25th.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication and of this reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

William D. Ruckelshaus

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

William D. Ruckelshaus
Acting Director

MAILED 24 JUL 6 1973 FBI

NOTE: Bufiles indicate one letter to correspondent dated 4-15-66 in reply to his inquiry regarding the Air Force's Project Blue Book and UFO sightings. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department that did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.)

[redacted] (4)

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

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[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

105

100-2237-28

November 10, 1975

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ptc

Dear [redacted]:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request forwarded to the FBI by the Department of Justice on October 22nd.

In response to your request for files pertaining to Nikola Tesla, please be advised that in order to preserve the privacy of an individual who may be the subject of a similar inquiry, it has been necessary for the FBI to maintain the practice of not indicating whether we do or do not have such information in our files.

If you can provide notarized authorization from Mr. Tesla's next of kin directing us to release to you any information our files may contain concerning him, we shall thereafter search our files and advise you accordingly.

Since we have not conducted a search of our files, please do not infer that we do or do not have the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

MAILED 6
NOV 10 1975
FBI

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. ____
Comp. Syst. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Files & Com. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
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Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Plan. & Eval. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Legal Coun. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director Sec'y ____

1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure
Attention: Susan M. Hauser

[redacted] (5)

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GPO : 1975 O - 569-920

106

[redacted] (6)(7)(c)

April 20, 1976

Mr. Clarence Kelly
Director
F.B.I.
Washington, DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY [signature]

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Mr. Allen and Mr. Ruchlehaus, former acting Director of the FBI, contacted me in 1973 regarding the unavailability of American microfilm records of Nikola Tesla's unpublished diary (now in the Belgrade museum, arranged by month per folder).

At the time I discounted the possibility that these unpublished discoveries had military significance. But because of experiments now under way at Hill AFB, I now suspect such military applications exist and feel it imperative that you be notified, particularly in view of the fact that the Soviets have primary access to the entire collection.

Two photos of each page exist.

After Tesla's death, scientists from the Navy and OSS performed a cursory examination of the diary and notes, which if my memory serves me correctly, was one month long, hardly enough time to decipher Tesla's torturous handwriting. Though Tesla wrote in English, his penmanship was small, blurred, and as difficult to translate as a foreign language.

According to the museum director (1971), the Soviets had made copies of some portions, but not the Colorado Springs diary, which numbers 500 pages, 20 that directly pertain to ball lightning, and 20 or so relevant to the equipment construction. (We copied the most significant portions, but feel more exists)

FX-115 REC-52 100-2237-29

[redacted] an article [redacted] magazine, EDN (an electrical engineering magazine), but only with the very recent receipt of an unpublished manuscript from John J. O'Neill's book (PRODIGAL GENIUS) did I place credence on Tesla's later claim to military applications. Incidentally, some of O'Neill's descriptions were inaccurate and exagerated, as we have exceeded Tesla's results and are familiar with the experiments. At any rate, there are three possible military applications.

(b)(7)(c)

4 MAY 3 1976

[redacted]

107

First, Tesla claimed that the lightning balls (which destroyed his equipment) could be used to destroy aircraft. I have talked to AF personnel --such as [redacted] who saw one inside his plane in flight--and found AF personnel fear these "rf balls," as they call them.

Second, it is a suspicion of mine that ball lightning, if injected with lithium, could produce a cheap fusion bomb.

Third--and this may be no more than a suspicion--the propulsion mode of ball lightning involves electro-gravitic interaction, by which means air vehicles of revolutionary configuration may be constructed. There are no presently-known laws of physics that can account for the propulsion (400 mph or so when following an airliner). Other hitherto unsuspected applications may exist.

(b)(7)(C)

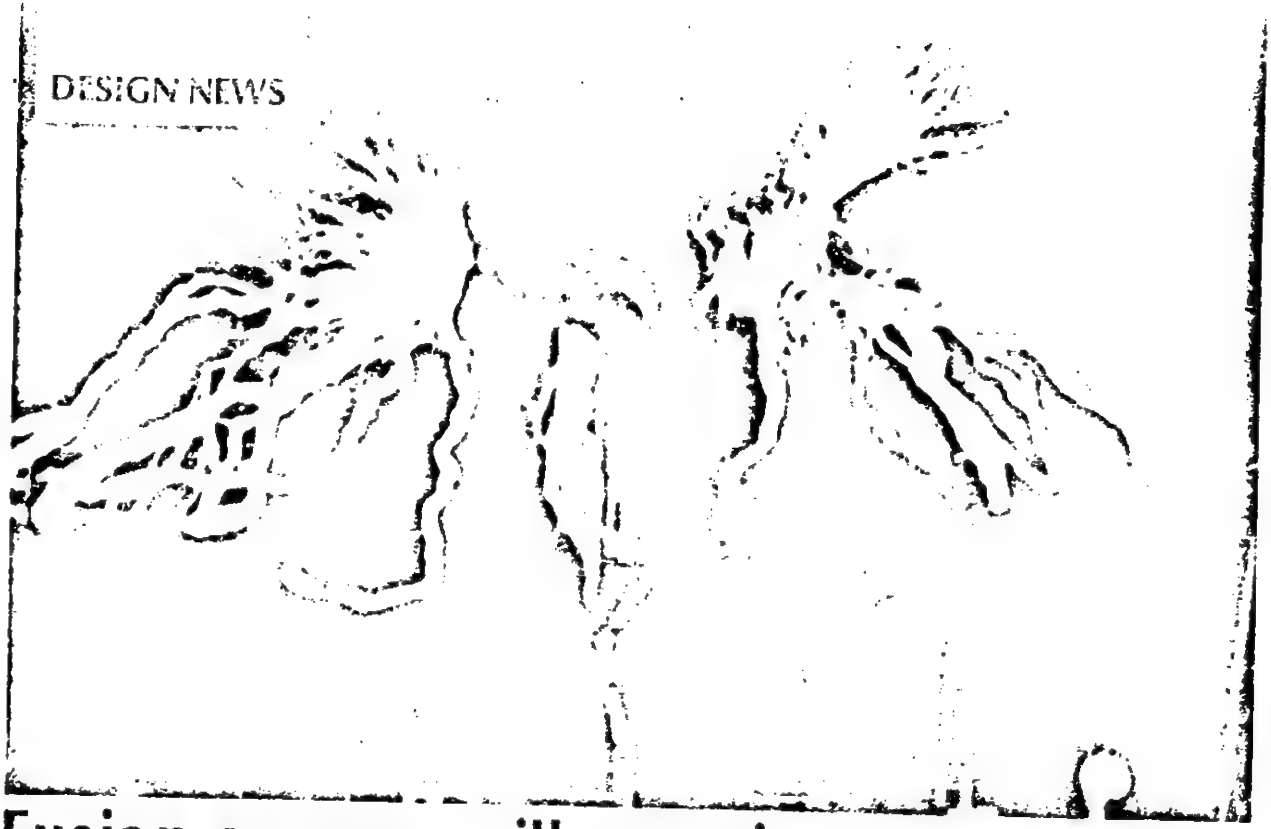
None of these applications were the goal of Project Tesla, which centered on producing ball lightning as Tesla did and studying it as a plasma confinement technique for fusion reactors. Incidentally, Tesla's claim to setting up standing waves on the earth's surface (wireless power) was erroneous and involved techniques similar to Project Sanguine, that is, using the earth's atmosphere as a waveguide ([redacted] is aware of our research).

Cordially,

[redacted]

P.S. By a copy of this letter, along with the enclosures, I am notifying the C.I.A.

Enclosures: 2



Fusion energy: will experiments in ball lightning provide the key?

Paul Snigier, Associate Editor

In the vast and empty hangar where the first atomic bomb was assembled, a man-made lightning storm is now being unleashed. The voltages of these lightning bolts—20 million volts—are the highest discharge voltages ever produced by man.

Project Tesla, headed by Robert K. Golka and Dr. Robert W. Bass, is an attempt to artificially duplicate one of nature's rarest and most terrifying phenomena—ball lightning. The experiments are based upon the unpublished notes of Nikola Tesla, who, in 1899 at his Colorado Springs laboratory, used a secret *magnifying transmitter* to produce 1.5-in. lightning balls that floated for 30 sec.

The energy surplus

Many physicists, including the eminent Dr. James Tuck, founder of the U.S. fusion program, believe that the lightning ball holds the key to a fantastic, cheap and endless energy source—fusion power, or the energy source used by the stars and sun. The fuel is deuterium, or heavy water, that can be inexpensively extracted from ocean water to provide mankind

Highest voltage continuously oscillating damped-wave lightning generator (ever produced by mankind) creates a current of 1100A at 12.5 MV! Subsequent improvements raised this to a peak current of 2200A at 20 MV. Further improvements could conceivably produce bolts that exceed natural lightning (100 MV)!

100-2237-29

DISCLOSURE

with millions of years of [illegible]. Unfortunately, progress in fusion research, which has centered on magnetic confinement and laser implosions, has been frustratingly slow and full of unpleasant surprises; and scientists warn that success could be as far off as four decades! But if these promising experiments under way at Wendover, UT, are successful, a new unexpected confinement technique could unleash this energy source.

In search of nature's secrets...

Ball lightning, a glowing sphere of red, orange or yellow plasma, often materializes during lightning storms and floats about, often against a strong wind. The ball may bounce along the floor and, on occasion, the sphere will "slip" through glass without breaking it. (The author recently investigated one such case in a hospital, in which the lights were damaged.) At times it materializes inside or even outside aircraft in flight, seemingly impervious to deformation from the wind force.

Witnesses of ball lightning have included such notables as Niels Bohr and Victor Weisskopf, the Director of the MIT Physics Department. Another witness was Secretary of State Dean Acheson, who reported seeing it cross the breakfast table aboard the presidential plane.

The accidental formation of ball lightning has been observed about once per year for the past decade inside building 985 at Hill AF Missile Radiographic Facility, UT. The volleyball-size fireballs drop out of the space adjacent to the high voltage supply of the 25 Mev linear accelerator.

The ball of blue fire floats down to the floor, rolls around randomly and then rises again to the power-supply area where it dissipates without detectable damage. Despite troubleshooting, no explanation can be found for this occurrence.

On one occasion, lightning struck the building—a large concrete structure with a 60-ft. ceiling inside—and, simultaneously, an intense sphere of fire the size of a tennis ball formed above the conduit on the wall at [illegible]ly shoulder level. It moved along the wall for a distance of some 30 ft., floated out and around the neck and shoulders of a person standing near the wall, moved back to the wall and continued along for several feet until it intercepted a duplex outlet on the conduit. At this the ball exploded, causing electrical damage throughout.

A new state of matter?

No presently known laws of physics can account for the stability and bouncing of fireballs unless it includes surface tension. This hitherto unobserved state of matter is a new concept, since plasmas have never previously exhibited such strong surface tension. Also, presently known laws cannot account for the propulsion.

Project Tesla has developed a rigorous mathematical model of the lightning ball's absolute, asymptotic, fluid-dynamical stability. Initial computer studies indicated a density range of 10^{15}-10^{11} cm^{-3}, with a temperature of 10^{5}-10^{4} °K—or seven times hotter than the sun! □

Chapter 34

TESLA TRIES TO PREVENT WORLD WAR II

When Tesla was talking as a scientist he was opposed to wars on moral, economic and all practical and theoretical grounds. But, like most scientists, when he stopped thinking as a scientist, and let his emotions rule his thoughts, he found exceptions in which he felt some wars and situations were justifiable. As a scientist he was unwilling to have the discoveries of scientists applied to the pruposes of war makers, but when the emotional phase of his nature took the ruling position he was then willing to apply his genius to devising measures that would prevent wars by supplying protective devices.

This attitude is exemplified in the following statement which he prepared in the twenties but did not publish:

"At present many of the ablest minds are trying to devise expedients for preventing a repetition of the awful conflict which is only theoretically ended and the duration and main issues of which I correctly predicted in an article printed in the Sun of December 20, 1914. The League is not a remedy but, on the contrary, in the opinion of a number of competent men, may bring about results just the opposite. It is particularly regrettable that a punitive policy was adopted in framing the terms of peace because a few years hence it will be possible for nations to fight without armies, ships or guns, by weapons far more terrible, to the destructive action and range of which there is virtually no limit. Any city at any distance whatsoever from the enemy can be destroyed by him and no power on earth can stop him from doing so. If we want to avert an impending calamity and a state of things which may transorm this globe into an inferno, we should push the development of flying machines and wireless transmission of energy without an instant's delay and with all the power and resources of the nation."

Tesla saw preventative possibilities in his new invention which embodied "death ray" characteristics and which was made several years after the foregoing statement was written. He saw it providing a curtain of protection which any country, no matter how small, could use as a protection against invasion. While he might offer it as a defensive weapon, however, there would be nothing to stop military men from using it as a weapon of offense.

While I did not know the nature of Tesla's plan I was convinced that it did embody many discoveries that would be of commercial value, and these were the angles he should seek to develop. I felt that if he could be induced to develop some minor phase of his work that would have immediate commercial use he could derive an income from it which would enable him to proceed with his more elaborate plans. To this end I sought to gain some insight into his thoughts, that would enable me to get a practical plan in operation. This was no secret to Tesla and he successfully parried every thrust I made.

The clearest conception I got, and that was largely from scattered remarks, and by making deductions from them, concerned a possible manner in which one phase of his curtain of protection might operate. This was a "war" angle and as such it did not interest

100-2237-01

me, but since it involved "lightning balls," or "fire balls," I was very curious. Fi lls had always fascina o, and I had read everything I could lay my hands on about them.

A fire ball is a strange phenomenon associated with lightning. Some of the energy of the lightning stroke appears to become locked into a ball shaped structure which may be of any size from a couple of inches to a foot in diameter. It looks like a perfect sphere, brightly incandescent and floats like a bubble, being easily carried by air currents. They may last for a short time, from a fraction of a second to many seconds. In this interval, during which they stay fairly close to the ground, they may come close to many objects without damaging them or being damaged by them. Suddenly, for no known reason, the ball explodes doing as much damage as a bomb, if close to structures, and no damage if in the open.

The fire ball looked to me like a gigantically enlarged model of the tiny electron, one of the building blocks of matter, which acts as if it were just a spherical area of space in which an amount of energy was crystallized to give it structure. I felt that if it were possible to discover how a large amount of energy was stored in this fairy bubble structure of a fire ball a new insight might be gained into the structure of the electron and other fundamental particles of matter. Also this method of storing energy could be applied to a thousand useful purposes.

When I approached Tesla with pleas along this line to develop this possible phase of his discovery he would evade direct reply by indulging in a, not always, tolerant lecture on my gullability in believing theories about the complex structure of the atom. While he had in earlier years discussed some of his experiences with fire balls in his laboratory at Colorado Springs and explained his theory of their formation, he would not in the later years permit himself to be drawn into a discussion of them as a possible part of his system. This, of course, made me suspicious that the clue was "hot" but I could be completely wrong in my conclusions. Tesla was very quick in detecting my technique when I sought to narrow down a field by trying to get him to deny statements when he was adamant to direct questions.

Tesla became familiar with the destructive characteristics of fire balls in his experiments at Colorado Springs in 1899. He produced them quite by accident and saw them, more than once, explode and shatter his tall mast and also destroy apparatus within his laboratory. The destructive action accompanying the disintegration of a fire ball, he declared, takes place with inconceivabel violence.

He studied the process by which they were produced, not because he wanted to produce them but in order to eliminate the conditions in which they were created. It is not pleasant, he related, to have a fire ball explode in your vicinity for they will destroy anything they come in contact with.

It will be necessary to reconstruct his statements from very fragmentary notes and a long distance memory.

"Parasitic oscillations, or circuits, within the main circuit were a source of danger from this cause. Points of resistance in the main circuit could result in minor oscillating circuits between terminals or between two points of resistance and these minor circuits would have a very much higher period of oscillation than the main circuit and could be set into oscillation by the main current of lower frequency.

"Even when the principal oscillating circuit was adjusted for the greatest efficiency of operation by the dimination of all sources of losses the fire balls continued to occur but these were due to stray high frequency charges from random earth currents.

"From these experiences it became apparent that the fire balls resulted from the interaction of two frequencies, a stray higher frequency wave imposed on the lower frequency free oscillation of the main circuit.

"As the free oscillation of the circuit builds up from the zero point to the quarter wave length node it passes through various rates of change. In a current of shorter wavelength the rates of change will be steeper. When the two currents react on each other the resultant complex will contain a wave in which there is an extremely steep rate of change, and for the briefest instant currents may move at a tremendous rate, at the rate of millions of horsepower.

"This condition acts as a trigger which may cause the total energy of the powerful longer wave to be discharged in an infinitesmally small interval of time and at a proportionately tremendously great rate of energy movement which cannot confine itself to the metal circuit and is released into surrounding space with inconceivable violence."

It is but a step, from learning how a high frequency current can explosively discharge a lower frequency current, to using the principle to design a system in which these explosions can be produced by intent. The following process appears a possible one but no evidence is available that it is the one Tesla evolved: An oscillator, such as he used to send power wirelessly around the earth at Colorado Springs, is set in operation at a frequency to which a given warship is resonant. The complex structure of a ship would provide a great number of spots in which electrical oscillations will be set up of a much higher frequency than those coursing through the ship as a whole. These parasistic currents will react on the main current causing the production of fireballs which by their explosions will destroy the ship, even more effectively than the explosion of the magazine which would also take place. A second oscillator may be used to transmit the shorter wavelength current.

Somewhat later I learned the reason for Tesla's reticence to discuss details. This came shortly after Stanley Baldwin replaced Neville Chamberlin as Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Tesla revealed that he had carried on negotiations with Prime Minister Chamberlin for the sale of his ray system to Great Britain for $30,000,000 on the basis of his presentation that the device would provide complete protection for the British Isles against any enemy approaching by sea or air, and would provide an

offensive weapon to which there was no defense. He was convinced, he declared, of the sincerity of Mr. Chamberlain and his intent to adopt the device as it would have prevented the outbreak of the then threatening war, and would have made possible the continuation-under the duress which this weapon would make possible - of the working agreement involving France, Germany and Britain to maintain the status quo in Europe. When Chamberlin failed, at the Munich conference, to retain this state of European equilibrium it was necessary to get rid of Chamberlin and install a new Prime Minister who could make the effort to shift one corner of the triangle from Germany to Russia. Baldwin found no virtue in Tesla's plan and preemptorially ended the negotiations.

Tesla was greatly disappointed by the collapse of his negotiations with the British Government. With it there collapsed his hopes of providing a demonstration of his most recent, and, what he considered, his most important discoveries. He did not, however, dwell on the jubject; beyond the single conversation he did not mention the matter again. He did not get another chance to finance the demonstration of these discoveries.

During the period in which the negotiations were being carried on, Tesla declared, efforts had been made to steal the invention. His room had been entered and his papers examined but the thieves, or spies, left empty handed. There was no danger, he said, that his invention could be stolen for he had at no time committed any part of it to paper. He could trust his memory to preserve every fine detail of his investigations. This was true, he said, of all of his later major discoveries.

The nature of his system makes little difference now; he has gone and has taken it with him. Perhaps, if there is any communication from beyond the veil that separates this life from whatever exists hereafter, Tesla may look down upon earth's struggling mortals and find some way of dropping a hint concerning what he accomplished; but, if the situation is such that this cannot take place, then we must await until the human race produces another Tesla.

ooo

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/sto

EX-115

REC-47

100-2237-29

April 30, 1976

[redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

Dear [redacted]:

Thank you for your letter of April 20th, with enclosures. It was certainly most thoughtful of you to furnish us this information, and your interest and courtesy are indeed appreciated.

MAILED 6
APR 30 1976
FBI

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Bufiles indicate limited correspondence with [redacted] last outgoing 6-27-73, in reply to his request concerning papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla. Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death in 1943, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles indicated the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice did so. Bufile 100-2237-23.

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Director's Sec'y ___

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5 MAY 21 1976
51 JUN 21 1976

GPO : 1975 O - 594-120

115

[redacted]

JUN 16

United States Senate

To ensure proper handling please return all correspondence TO THE ATTENTION OF:

[redacted]

Respectfully referred to:

FBI

Please respond to the attached inquiry in duplicate and return the enclosure. Thank you for your cooperation.

[redacted] U.S.S.

(b)(7)(C)

EXP PROC

JUN 17 1976

REC-34 100-2237

1 JUN 17 1976

[redacted]

[redacted]

ENCLOSURE

116

Alex

[redacted]

(b)(7)(c)

[redacted]
Room 5241, Washington DC 2510

Dear Sir.

I am a substitute in the Milwaukee Public School System. I do scientific experiments in high voltage electricity. I have studied all the available writings of the dead genius Nikola Tesla (1861 - January 7, 1943)

When Nicola Tesla died the Federal Bureau of Investigation came and opened the safe in his room and took the papers it contained, to examine them

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ENCLOSURE

(b)(7)(c)

for a reported secret invention of possible use in II W.W..

As a citizen & a scientist I would like to study these unpublished papers with hope of finding new ideas for producing an alternate source of energy. Something that Nikola Tesla knew about and because of his unfortunate financial status, was not able to develop into a working model.

Please help. -

With love in The Lo

[redacted]

(b)(7)(c)

[redacted]

REC-34 101-4

100 -2237-30

June 23, 1976

Honorable [redacted]
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-82 BY [redacted] (b)(7)(C)

Dear Senato[redacted]

This will respond to your communication of June 16th enclosing the letter of [redacted]

The effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

A copy of your communication and of this reply are being referred to the Department of Justice and the enclosure to your communication is being returned as requested.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Enclosure
1 - Assistant Attorney General - Enclosures (2)
Civil Division
1 - Milwaukee - Enclosures (2)
1 - Office of Congressional Affairs - Enclosures (2)
NOTE: This response is consistent with past responses to inquiries of a similar nature. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that the Office of Alien Property took possession of Dr. Tesla's papers following his death.

[redacted] (7)

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Dep. AD Inv. ___
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Gen. Inv. ___
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Inspection ___
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Training ___
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Director Sec'y ___

MAILED 10
JUN 23 1976
FBI

(b)(7)(C)

[redacted]

56 JUL 14 1976

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[redacted]

119

FBI/DOJ

July 26, 1979

Dear Mr. Webster:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE DATE 7-14-81 BY SP1 AJM/KSR

I am writing this letter in regard to some papers you have in your possession by Nikola Tesla.

I have for some time now been studying the works of Mr. Tesla and I am involved in the research and further developement of his efforts. I have in my possession a copy of almost everything that was ever written by him.

However I have read that on the day following his death (he died the night of January 7th 1943, so probably January 8th, 1943) the Federal Bureau of Investigation went to where Mr. Tesla had been staying - the Hotel New Yorker, New York City, New York and collected all notes and papers that he had with him there.

REC-79 100-22237-1
2 AUG 7 1979

To further my studies and hopefully complete them it would be deeply appreciated if you would send me a copy of all the notes, papers, books, drawings etc. that were found there.

Thank you,

[redacted]

(b)(7)(c)

120

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT — UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Intell ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgmt ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

TO : Mr. Bresson

DATE: 2/25/80

FROM : [redacted] (b)(7)(C)

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT DISCLOSURE REGARDING DR. NIKOLA TESLA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jmm/r

PURPOSE:

To reduce time spent on handling of requests for information on captioned subject and to promote uniformity of disclosure.

DETAILS:

A search of FBIHQ central records indices reflects that Dr. Nikola Tesla is carried as the subject of Bufile 100-2237. Virtually all information in this file is inquiry-type correspondence. For purposes of FOIA releases, copies of this material have not been made and requesters have been so advised. Copies of the remaining material in the file totalling 29 pages, however, has been processed for disclosure. Numerous requesters have sought information relating to Dr. Tesla under the FOIA. Therefore, it is recommended that the disclosure documents maintained in Bufile 190-16504-4 be considered the preprocessed release appropriate for responses by the Initial Processing Unit for any further requests for information on this subject.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Initial Processing Unit, FOIPA Branch, Records Management Division, add captioned case to their list of preprocessed cases and handle any future requests for such information. 100-2237

1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

100-2237
190-16504

XEROX

MAR 27 1980

FEB 23 1980

(b)(7)(C) [redacted]

[redacted] (7)

121

August 6, 1979

BM

OUTSIDE SOURCE

[redacted] (b)(1)(c)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jenkins

Dear [redacted]:

Your recent letter requesting information concerning Dr. Nikola Tesla has been received.

The effects of Dr. Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. We have no preprinted material available for public distribution regarding Dr. Tesla. However, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552), requests have been made in the past regarding your topic and there may be documents available to you under Title 28--Code of Federal Regulations.

If you are interested in seeking such documents under the Freedom of Information Act, you should make a separate inquiry, clearly marking the envelope and letter as a Freedom of Information Act request, and direct it to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 9th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20535. In the letter you must request documents regarding the specific topic of interest to you.

REC-79
EX-137
100-2237-32

Sincerely yours,

DE-79

William L. Bailey
Assistant Director

MAILED 11
AUG 6 1979
FBI

2 AUG 7 1979

Assoc. Dir. 1
Dep. AD Adm. —
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Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. —
Crim. Inv. —
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Legal Coun. —
Plan. & Insp. —
Rec. Mgmt. —
Tech. Servs. —
Training —
Public Affs. Off. —
Telephone Rm. —

[redacted] Enclosure
Room 6958
(This correspondence response may engender a future FOIA inquiry.)

NOTE: Based upon available information, correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

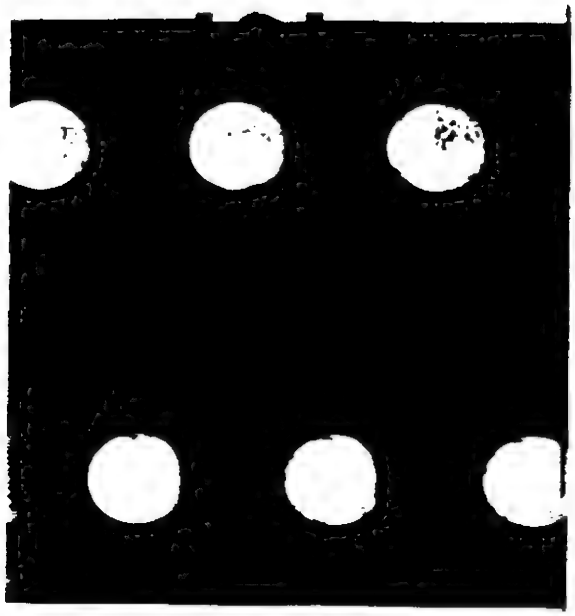
[redacted]lch (4)

(b)(7)(E)

122

[redacted]

FBI/DC



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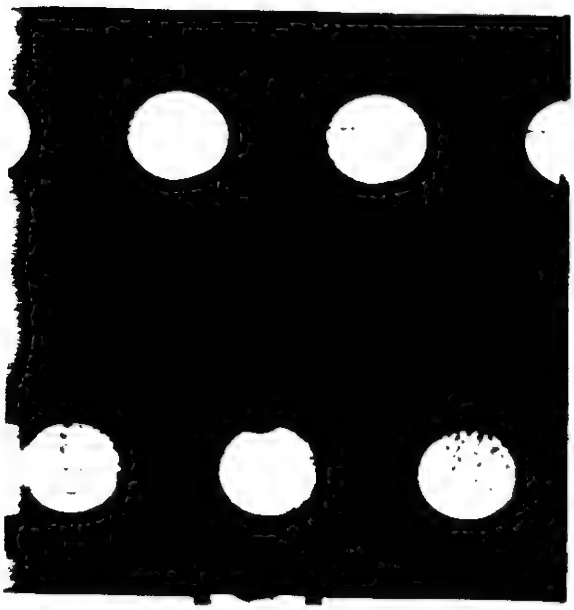

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERNAL ROUTING/ACTION SLIP

(Rev. 10/10/79)

TO	BLDG.	ROOM	NAME/TITLE/ORGANIZATION	
	JEH	7142	Mr. Colwell	235
	JEH	7110	Mr. Boynton	235
	JEH	7110	Mr. Moore	235
	JEH	5829	Mr. Bailey/Rogers	211
	JEH	5829	Mr. O'Brien/Lass	211
	JEH	6296	Mr. Flanders/Wolesiagle	314
			OPERATIONS SECTION	
	JEH	6992	Mr. Ervin/Poston	314
	JEH	6993	Mr. Tierney/Poston	314
	JEH	6280	CHIEF, TAR/Secretary	314
			SA:	
			Attn:	
	JEH	6987	CHIEF, FIELD COOR.	314
			SA:	
			Attn:	
	JEH	6958	CHIEF, IPU/Secretary	314
			SA:	
			Attn:	
	JEH	6363	File Duplication	314
	JEH	6268	Tickler/Index Group	314
	JEH	6992	Leave Clerk	314
	JEH	6348	Word Processing Center	314
	JEH	6380	DCRU	314
			Attn:	

BLDG	ROOM	NAME/TITLE/ORGANIZATION	
		DISCLOSURE SECTION	
JEH	6995	Mr. Bresson/Norrenberg	314
JEH	6994	Mr. Lewis/Norrenberg	314
JEH	6927	CHIEF, UNIT A/Secretary	314
		SA:	Team
		RA:	Team
JEH	6959	CHIEF, [redacted]	314
		SA:	Team
		RA:	Team
JEH	6975	CHIEF, UNIT C/Secretary	314
		SA:	Team
		RA:	Team
JEH	6986	CHIEF, UNIT D	314
		SA:	Team
		RA:	Team
JEH	6786	CHIEF, UNIT E	314
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		RA:	Team
JEH	6387	CHIEF, UNIT F/Secretary	314
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		RA:	Team

(2) ✓

ATT: [redacted] DATE: 2-14-86

I would feature TPU being alerted that any request for Tesla file be referred to Seattle, to [redacted] where upon she would see that appropriate action is made

☐ RECOMMENDATION/COMMENT ☐ LOG ☐ NECESSARY ACTION
☐ SEE REMARKS ON REVERSE ☐ FILE ☐ COORDINATE
☐ MAKE COPIES (NO.) ☐ SEE ME ☐ PER INQUIRY
☐ RETURN (BY) ☐ CALL ME ☐ INFORMATION

FROM Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts Branch
THOMAS H. BRESSON SECTION CHIEF

BLDG. ROOM
PHONE DATE

FORM DOJ-359A
8-1-74

[redacted]

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(7)
(C)

CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

9 FEB 1981

B17

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT: Papers Recovered on the Death of Nicola Tesla (U)

(U) We understand that the FBI may have possession of a number of papers found after the death of Nicola Tesla in 1943. Nicola Tesla was a brilliant electrical engineer (i.e. the Tesla Coil) who was a pioneer in various aspects of electrical transmission phenomena.

(C) We believe that certain of Tesla's papers may contain basic principles which would be of considerable value to certain ongoing research within the DoD. It would be very helpful to have access to his papers.

(U) Since we have really no idea of the possible volume of these papers, we would be happy to provide a researcher who could assist you in reducing the magnitude of the search. If there are further questions, I am the point of contact within the DoD and can be reached at 695-6364 or 695-7417.

Allan J. MacLaren

Allan J. MacLaren
LtColonel, USAF
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems

REGISTERED
1059638

FBI
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-8-93 BY 9803 [redacted] b7C
FOIPA No. 356,608
362,001

100-2237-33

Per DOD letter dated 3-29-93 with Enclosures 1 and 2 ALL DOD info is unclassified DOD referenced FOI/PA #'s 356,608 and 362,001

4/8/93 9803 [redacted] b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 9-14-98 BY SP/SDX/MVC

MAR 12 1981

b7C

Classifed by: DUSDRE/S&SS
Declassify on: February 1987

DECLASSIFIED BY 1048 [redacted]
ON 1-27-93
Per Army letter 5-25-89
291860

CORRESPONDENCE

50 MAR 30 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

124

March 10, 1981

Lt. Col. Allen [illegible]acLaren, USAF
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems
Office of the Under Secretary
of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20301

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7-14-92 BY SP2 [illegible]

Dear Colonel MacLaren:

Your memorandum of February 9 requesting access to the scientific papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla which might be in our files has been referred to my office for reply.

A preliminary review of our files indicates that the FBI did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings following his death in New York City in January, 1943. His papers were examined by representatives of the Office of Alien Property, the Navy Department and the Office of Scientific Research and Development. In February, 1943, the papers apparently were released to Mr. Sava N. Kosanovic, Dr. Tesla's nephew and the administrator of his estate. Mr. Kosanovic's address at that time was 11 Central Park South, New York, New York.

A complete search of our indices is being made to determine if we have any information that might be useful to you. You will be notified of the results of this search at the earliest possible date.

DE-110/100-2237-34

MAILED 3
MAR 10 1981
FBI

MAR 12 1981

Sincerely,

Roger S. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional
and Public Affairs

1 - [redacted] (FOIPA) - Enc.
1 - Mr. Young - Enc.
1 - [redacted] - Enc.

(6)(7)(c)

NOTE: Reply discussed with [redacted] FOIPA, FBIHQ, who has handled similar requests for information in our files concerning Dr. Tesla. In numerous previous responses we have said that the Office of Alien Property, the Department of Justice impounded Dr. Tesla's papers after his death. However, the Office of Foreign Litigation, Civil Division, indicated that Dr. Tesla's papers are not in their possession.

60 MAR 30 1981

139

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(b)(7)(C)

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Director's Sec'y ___

MAIL ROOM

125

March 23, 1961

Lt. Col. A. J. MacLaren
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems
Office of the Under Secretary
of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20301

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 9-14-92 BY SP1/LSK/MJW

Dear Colonel MacLaren:

A complete search of our retrievable files concerning Dr. Nikola Tesla shows that all notes and material in his immediate possession at the time of his death on January 7, 1943, were placed in the custody of the Alien Property Custodian under seal by the United States Government. These materials have never been in the care or custody of the FBI.

On January 26 and 27, 1943, Federal authorities made a thorough review of the effects of Dr. Tesla to determine if any items of significant value to the United States war effort could be found. His effects were examined at the Manhattan Warehouse and Storage Company at 52nd and 7th Avenue, New York, New York, where they apparently were taken after his death. Participating in this examination were representatives from the New York and Washington Offices of the Alien Property Custodian, the Office of Scientific Research and Development at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and United States Naval Research. The FBI did not participate in this examination. (65-47953 section 1)

MAILED 6
MAR 23 1961
FBI

It was the considered opinion of a spokesman of those examiners "that there exist among Dr. Tesla's papers and possessions no scientific notes, descriptions of hitherto unrevealed methods or devices, or actual apparatus which could be of significant value to this country or which would constitute a hazard in unfriendly hands." There was thought to be no technical or military reason why further custody of the property should be retained. However, our files indicate that certain papers, which were regarded as typical of Nikola Tesla's writings and thoughts in the period of 1925 to 1942, were removed for the purpose of copying to the Office of the Alien Property Custodian. (65-47953 section 1)

100-2237-35

V-38 DE-113 MAR 25 1961

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Telephone Rm. ___
Director's Sec'y ___

1 - Mr. Young
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
MAIL ROOM [redacted]

b7C

(SEE NOTE PAGE THREE)

[redacted]

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. Col. A. J. MacLaran

A memo dated October 17, 1945, from our New York Office said that at that time Dr. Tesla's effects remained at the Manhattan Storage Warehouse in some 75 packing boxes and trunks under seal by the New York Department of Taxation. The rental for this storage, approximately $15 per month, was being paid by Charlotte Muzar, 134 East 63rd Street, New York, New York, who was listed as an agent for Sava Kosanovich, Dr. Tesla's nephew and administrator of his estate. (65-47953-14)

On October 26, 1945, [redacted] a young scientist who had been Tesla's protege, called in person at our New York Field Office. With him were [redacted] and [redacted] from a research development unit at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. These men carried a letter signed by [redacted], requesting that the FBI allow the bearers of the letter access to the effects of Nikola Tesla. (65-47953-15)

It was explained to [redacted] that the FBI had no jurisdiction over Tesla's effects, and they were referred to the Office of the Alien Property Custodian. Bureau files do not indicate whether the men ever examined Tesla's belongings. (65-47953-15)

The Tesla effects remained in rooms 53 and 51 of the Manhattan Storage Company. In the 1950s, FBI Agents were told by company management that the only recorded visit had been made by "Federal authorities" in January, 1943. [redacted] recalled that the men had taken numerous photographs. His description of the equipment used would tend to show that a microfilm reproduction was made of the papers of the deceased. (65-47953-27)

Our files do not reflect any pertinent information on the Tesla materials since that date. Their current whereabouts or condition are not reflected in our files.

For further information regarding this matter, you may wish to contact the Office of the Alien Property Custodian and the other Federal agencies mentioned above.

I hope that we have been of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional
and Public Affairs

(CONTINUED - OVER)

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Lt. Col. A. J. MacLaran

NOTE: On February 9, 1981, Col. MacLaran wrote to us inquiring about the scientific papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla. In a return letter of March 9, we informed him that a thorough review of our files would be made in search of the information he requested. This was done and he is being informed of the results. Tesla's papers have been the subject of numerous inquiries by various individuals and organizations since his death. FBI received over 20 FOIA requests on this matter during the period 1973-1980. Matter coordinated with FOIA Section, RMD.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

1 APR 1981

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Roger S. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Young,

Thank you very much for your letters of March 10 and March 20, 1981, in response to our request re Dr. Tesla. We very much appreciate the effort that must have gone into this. On behalf of the Deputy Under Secretary (Strategic and Space Systems), Dr. S. L. Zeiberg, I would like to thank you and the people who spent their time searching out the relevant data.

Sincerely,

Allan J. MacLaren

Allan J. MacLaren
Colonel, USAF
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems

DE-110 100-2237-36

16 APR 10 1981

FBI
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-8-93 BY 9803 [redacted] b7C
FOIPA No. 356,608
362,001

Off. of Cong. and Pub. Aff.

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21 July 1981 [redacted] (b)(7)(C)

Director of the FBI
Washington, D.C.

[redacted]

Dear Sir:

While attending college, I came across an article about the electrical genius, Nicolai Tesla. Mr. Tesla was an electrical genius with such peers as EDISON and WESTINGHOUSE. Tesla designed the basic generator and was the first man to introduce alternating current to the people. The article, written in an underground SanFrancisco newspaper, stated that Tesla also worked with electromagnetic waves and supposedly built a plant that could harness the electromagnetic waves out of the earth's atmosphere sufficiently enough to use them as a source of electricity. The article stated that Tesla built such a plant and lit up a city street 150 miles away by sending the electromagnetism via radio waves. This method is presently being used in electronic warfare. After that, the article stated that the FBI confiscated his plans and buried them in your archives. Their reasoning was that such a free form of energy would knock out a big chunk of the oil, coal, and nuclear forms of energy and their contributions to the economy(money for research and employment). All I want to know is if there is any truth to this story and if so what was the FBI's reasons and when are the archives opened again so that Tesla's work could come to light again. Now bear in mind that this man was an electrical genius and even had a unit of electrical measure named after him. If he did figure out a way to utilize the earth's electromagnetic waves then I believe that we are ready to gradually phase out our dependence on oil, ease the volatile tension in the Middle East and put all that money presently going to the Arabs into

100-2237-37

97 AUG 11 1981

[redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

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space research, joint international research and deep-sea research to help solve our population problem. I am talking about huge sums of money being released that could speed up the experts present projected times of producing significant gains in these still relatively new fields.

You could at least take the time to check out what I am saying and judge for yourself whether or not the archives should be opened now to put the world back on a more secure heading.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

[redacted]

August 7, 1981

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-14-12 BY SP1 SKM/MS

OUTSIDE SOURCE

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]:

Judge Webster has referred your letter of July 21st to me for a reply. A check of our files indicates Dr. Nikola Tesla's effects were impounded after his death by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. While your interest is indeed appreciated, the FBI is unable to answer your questions as we did not participate in the handling or have anything to do with the storage of Dr. Tesla's belongings.

To be as helpful as possible, I am forwarding a copy of this communication to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

S

Roger S. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional
and Public Affairs

MAILED 9
AUG 10 1981
FBI

1 - Acting Assistant Attorney General [redacted] Enclosure
Civil Division

NOTE: [redacted] is not identifiable in Bufiles. Dr. Tesla died on 1/7/43 and we have received much correspondence regarding his belongings which were impounded by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice.

[redacted] (4)

DE-116 62-100-2237-38

Exec AD Inv. ___
Exec AD Adm. ___
Exec AD LES ___
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ___
Crim. Inv. ___
Ident. ___
Intell. ___
Laboratory ___
Legal Coun. ___
Plan. & Insp. ___
Rec. Mgmt. ___
Tech. Servs. ___
Training ___
Public Affs. Off. ___
Telephone Rm. ___
Director's Sec'y ___

MAIL ROOM ☑

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FD-36 (Rev. 8-26-82)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

SECRET

Date 8/18/83

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: INTD, SUPERVISOR [redacted]
SECRET

FROM: SAC, CINCINNATI [redacted] (P)

NIKOLA TESLA
[redacted]
(OO: CI)

This communication is classified "Secret" in its entirety.

Re telephone call of SA [redacted], Cincinnati Division, to Supervisor [redacted] FBIHQ, on 8/11/83.

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York is one copy each of pertinent pages from the 1981 book titled "Tesla: Man Out of Time" by Margaret Cheney, with important passages underlined.

For information of Bureau and New York, [redacted] at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) and [redacted] also at WPAFB, have both been in contact with SA [redacted] at the Dayton, Ohio RA regarding possible FBI

SECRET

Classified by: 8262
Declassify on: OADR

Classified by SP1A ecm
Declassify on: OADR

ENCLOSURE

100 — 2237 - 39

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
2 - New York (Enc. 1)
2 - Cincinnati
[redacted]
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

17 AUG 22 1983

Approved: [redacted] Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per [redacted]

53 NOV [illegible] 1983

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